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The Long Island FISHI

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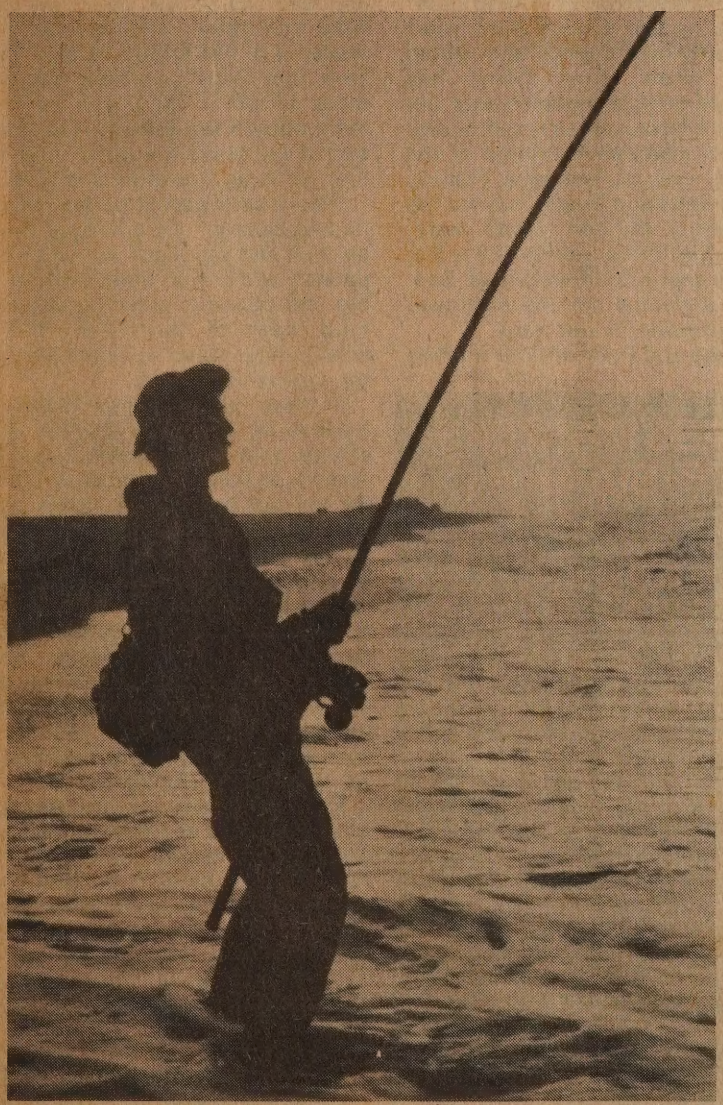
APRIL 3rd, 1975, ISSUE No. 12



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See page 16.

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TRASH AND WATER DON'T MIX

Being a sport fisherman I do everything possible to help keep our beaches and waterways clean; I believe all that make use of our beaches should. People that are earning a living on the water should be the ones to set the better example.

On a recent trip out of Captree, my friends and I fished aboard a certain boat which has a sign in the cabin saying, "Please help us keep our waterways clean. Deposit refuse in containers on board or dockside." The boat captain's wife was throwing trash into the water.

Several times we said something to her. One of her replies was that the ocean was full of garbage. No help from her.

We have decided not to go on this boat again for this season, and to pass the word on to our friends. *A sport fisherman, Lindenhurst.*

It is true that people who use the sea should care for it, especially those whose living depends upon our waters' health. Unfortunately, many still look upon the oceans as having infinite capacity for acceptance of our wastes. Not true, friends, not true!

We agree with your letter and applaud your actions...If enough financial pressure is put on polluters, they too will eventually learn. G.V.

1974 FISHING NOT BAD

As an avid outdoorsman and fisherman and as a dedicated teacher, I would like to voice my opinion with regard to the newly past fishing year: 1974 wasn't that bad!

Those who claim that 1974 was a total disaster must have left their gear at home a bit too often. Those of us who conscientiously avoid catching our limit, happier to limit and to encourage others to limit our catches, and who concentrate on having "fun" while angling had a fairly good year!

Every party boat captain with whom I spoke (there were many) has commented on how much cleaner our local waters have been in recent years. Capts. Tom and Joe Palladino of the Elsie K II, out of Tamaqua Fishing Station in Gerritsen Beach, say its the best fishing in the last twenty years, and Capt. Stu Berke, owner of the Big Capt. Bob pier I in Sheepshead Bay, join this appraisal on the improved water conditions in our area.

In January and February the whiting were eager to bite and the cod, which the Russians left behind, provided occasional thrills and excellent table fare. March saw a warming trend, and by April we were pulling full bags of flatties in the Silver Hole, with innumerable flounder which my students and I couldn't use going right back to grow up for this coming spring.

May produced the usual hoards of rampaging mackerel and their associated thrills and stories, and June through September brought some fantastic fluking everywhere...Riis Park, down east, between channels, Sandy Hook, the Highlands, etc. During these same summer months, when we weren't out fluking, the blues, though not as tremendously abundant as in the past few years, were still thick, and several of my students pulled choppers over 18 lbs. Even into Sept., we were chumming them up at 15 lbs., and we trolled them aboard the Elsie K well into the end of October, weighing in at 10-12 lbs., with an occasional striper.

Who would want a better fall black fishing season? We averaged 3-4 lbs. per fish and saw pool winners of nine pounds and better. Even the cod were big and plentiful until the end of the third week of December when the foreign fleet raped our waters—within the twelve mile limit.

If there was any real disappointment at all it was in the fall striper season that never materialized. But, that could easily be because it's time for the tail end of the striper cycle.

Nobody knows what the actual answers are. Maybe the proposed 200 Mile Fishing Limit law will be a boon to local off-shore fishing and fishermen. What, however, will the critics of the marauding foreign vessels say if keeping the big boats out does not improve our coastal fisheries? I don't know. But as one concerned citizen, I say it's high time we found out!

The fishing was not fantastic, but it was good. And sometimes it was very good! And I am pleased to know that I don't have to lament, as many seem constrained to do, about how good "it was" because I'm having too damn much fun now, enjoying my sport as "it is." *William M. Daskal, Faculty Advisor, Sheepshead Bay H.S. Fishermen*

HAVE BOAT—HAVE TRAVELED

There's one great thing about being in the boating business. When you finally make up your mind to go, after 29 years in one port, you can start up the engines and move the business to a new location!

When a new area is to be selected, it must pass a number of important tests. Some of the questions that

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

THE ONLY WEEKLY GUIDE FOR FISHERMEN IN THE N.Y. AREA

Volume 10, Number 12 — April 3rd, 1975

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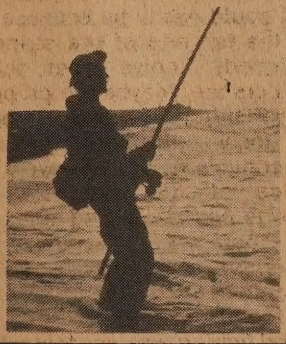

ABOUT THE COVER: For many surfmen, the beginning of April is the beginning of bass fishing. To all—tight lines!
Photo by Ed Torkildsen, who not only gives "The Professor" lessons in photography, but beat him out of that 50-pounder. NOTE: "The Professor's" articles on plug-making will continue in Issue 13—many more coming.

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must be favorably answered are: Is there deep water for good dockage? Is it easily accessable for passengers? How are the roads? Is there a good highway? Is it near the fishing grounds? Will there be ample parking facilities? Is there a congenial atmosphere?

When an operation has been versatile through the years, it is easier to come by the answers to those questions. Bringing people to other ports, picking parties up elsewhere, doing an oceanographic survey of the entire L.I. Sound, among other interesting chores, also provided a golden opportunity to get to know other areas quite well.

Our new location is on the Thames River, opposite New London. Although Groton is only 18 miles directly across the Sound from Montauk, it's a whole new world for the Hel-Cat.

For most Hel-Cat anglers, it will be very easy to get to. Driving straight out on I-95 and making the first turn-off over the Gold Star Memorial Bridge makes it simple. The directions to follow after turning off at the Bridge St. exit are printed on a map that is included in L.I.F.'s special FISHERMAN'S PACKAGE. It takes only about three minutes from the bridge to the dock if you follow the easy directions.

One incident in particular seems to sum up the enthusiasm in Groton about the "CAT" sailing from that port. A new sign, white with bold black letters reading Hel-Cat Dock, was being erected in front of the little dock office building on Thames St. the other day. A pick-up truck, with a medium-size camper on the back, screeched to a halt and a young man stuck his head out of the window.

"Is that THE Hel-Cat, the big red fishing boat," he yelled across the street.

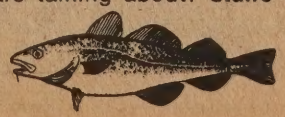
"That's right," was the response.

"You're going to sail out of here? No foolin'. WOW! That's fantastic—fabulous. When are you going to start?"

"First weekend in April," came the information. He wanted to continue the conversation, but impatient drivers in back of him started to honk and he had to move on.

For those anglers who come a considerable distance and might prefer to stay overnight, there's even a good motel only three doors away. By way of being neighborly and welcoming HEL-CAT anglers to Groton, the management of that motel will offer a special rebate.

By the way, the word Thames, is not pronounced "Temz", as is the river in England. Rather, the Th is soft, like in the word, thank; the "ames" is pronounced like "aims". If you put the word together that way, Thaimz, Connecticut people will know what you are talking about! **Claire Glas**



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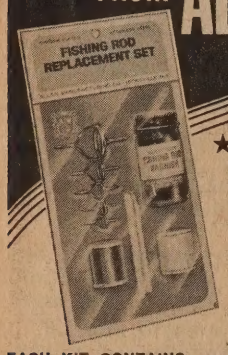

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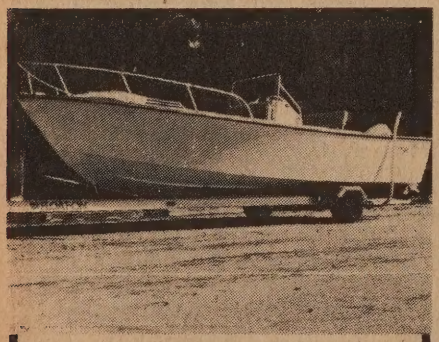

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EDITORIAL

HATS OFF TO D.E.C.

A couple of weeks ago Rich Reina, the publisher of this weekly, and I decided to try and stir up a few east-end flatfish. The trip was a disappointment for two reasons. First, we managed only a few small flounder; second, we again observed that the east-end mussel-gatherers were destroying the marshes that border the tidal creeks of the Peconic Bays.

The destruction is done with spades, shovels, and pitchforks which are used to section the marsh bog. The mussels are removed for sale but the bog is tossed aside. Thus, the narrow marsh is eroded ever thinner by this practice and soon there will not be enough bog to prevent the soil and sand on the bank from collapsing into the channel. The destruction of the marsh effectively eliminates the productivity of the tidal creeks.

I immediately called the Department of Environmental Conservation (D.E.C.) to report these observations. Now, as readers of this publication know, *The Long Island Fisherman* has been very critical of the D.E.C. We believe that we have had good reason for our opinions, too, and we also believe that we have carefully and successfully shown that the D.E.C. has been at times unresponsive, insensitive, ineffective, and uncooperative. We have expressed the opinion that changes in the organization, leadership, and internal communications are necessary in order for the Division of Marine and Coastal resources to be effective in the preservation of a stable Long Island marine ecology.

We still believe that many of these inadequacies exist. Yet, the D.E.C. has shown signs of improved performance and we would like to present these to our readers, as wellas our critical reviews.

The call about the mussel situation to Mr. Kelly, head of Community Relations, brought an immediate commitment to discuss the matter with regional director Robert Cook and the department regional attorney. The result of the meeting was the issuance of the following instructions to the two conservation officers of Peconic Bay's North Fork. Conservation officers were instructed to patrol the areas in question and approach offenders with the following commandment:

"If you cannot harvest the mussels in a manner that will not be harmful to the marsh, then you will be called for a hearing, at which point you'll be in risk of losing your shellfish permit; and you may also be charged with a violation of the tidal wetlands act."

We are grateful for this decision and eagerly await evidence that the mussel-gatherers have ceased these self-defeating collection procedures and/or that there have been fines levied and permits revoked. We trust that news of these happenings will be made available to us for our readers.

Happily, the D.E.C. is not the only group to be commended on this matter. I spoke at great length with Mr. Robert Hamilton, Jr., the president of the Town of Southold Baymen's Association. He said that he would help us and the D.E.C. to enforce action against violators of the conservation law. By and large, east-end baymen are very aware of the importance of stable marine ecology, because without it there can be no future shellfish and finfish harvests. He admitted that there are some "old guard" members whose harvesting procedures could be more environmentally oriented, and did promise to talk with these individuals. Furthermore, since reckless "fly-by-night" harvestors are endangering the future of their profession, he said that he would urge the membership to report any observed violations directly to the conservation officers that patrol the North Fork.

We think that the residents of east-end towns have a responsibility, too! Please report violators to the D.E.C. at (516) 751-7900, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you do not have the name of the persons you wish to report, then write down the registration number of the boat and offer this information to the officer that takes down your complaint.

Remember that baymen are entitled to harvest both clams and mussels up to the mean high water mark, but are not permitted to destroy the marsh in any way. Do not report shellfish collectors who harvest in a judicious manner, since harvest alone does not damage the marsh and is not in violation of the law.

Once again, we tip our hats to the D.E.C. and the Town of Southold Baymen's Association and hope that this spirit of cooperation and determined accomplishment will rub off on those who insist upon destroying our marshes.

Dr. William A. Muller

THANKS TO SCOTT SIMONS

On behalf of our Staff and Residents, I wish to thank your for the courtesy extended to me during our telephone conversation.

Your kind offer to donate copies of your publication was announced today to groups of our Residents. The enthusiasm and conversation that followed would warm the hearts of all fishermen. I heard stories of "the one that got away," which occured long before most of our Staff was born.

"The Long Island Fisherman" will provide hours of pleasure for many of our Residents, who are restricted by illness and age. Upon receiving copies of your fine newspaper. I will see that they are promptly distributed to our Wards. *Stephen P. McKeever, R.N., Treatment Team Leader, Bldg. 7, Central Islip Psychiatric Center.*

CLUB NEWS

EASTER SHOOT

To be held at Huntington Rifle & Pistol Range April 6th. Sponsored by Dun-Roven Fin & Fur Sportsman's Club. $125.00 in cash prizes awarded. All Welcome - For details call (516) 694-2124.

ATLANTIC COALITION MEETING

On Thursday, April 17 the Atlantic Coalition will hold a meeting at which representatives from Union Carbide company will appear to discuss "Purox", a process in which sewage sludge and garbage are broken down to form fuel gas. They will describe a purox plant that is soon to be operational in Charleston, Virginia.

The meeting will begin at 8 p.m. at Hofstra Law School, Room 238.

News Releases

SQUARDRON ANGLERS OFFER FISHING COURSE IN SETAUKET

The Setauket Adult Education Program, the second this month, has called on the Squardron Anglers to undertake direction of a fishing course, and classes will start at the Ward Melville High School, Old Town Road, in Setauket, on Tuesday, April 1. Registration is at 7 p.m. that night at the school, and the fee will be $12 for six lectures.

Five additional Tuesday night lectures will feature noted local experts. Covering all types of local fishing from flounder to shark and from blowfish to bluefish, the lectures will be highlighted by movies and demonstrations, with a special talk on rigs scheduled.

LONG ISLAND: ITS MARINE ENVIRONMENT

Striped bass research, the future of Long Island Sound, marine animal behavior, fish kills, mariculture, and scuba diving will be among the subjects covered at a seminar at C.W. Post College on Saturday afternoon, April 12, 1975.

Panel discussions and films will highlight the afternoon program at the College's Hillwood Common. Authorities from research facilities and educational institutions will conduct the panels.

The program, titled "Long Island: Its Marine Environment," is sponsored by the College's Department of Marine Science and the New York Chapter of the American Littoral Society.

A special session in the morning will cover curriculums and careers in marine science. It is free to all college and high school students interested in pursuing work in the marine field. Representatives from industry, laboratories, utilities, and academic institutions will speak and then be available during the rest of the day for individual interviews.

Among the afternoon panelists are Albert Jensen, Assistant Director for Marine and Coastal Resources, N.Y. State Department of Environmental Conservation; Dr. Phyllis Cahn, chairman of the Marine Science Department at C.W. Post; Claire Stern, executive director of the Long Island Environmental Council; Clarence Hickey, New York Ocean Science Laboratory, Montauk; and Dr. James Hain, Department of Oceanography, University of Rhode Island.

The free morning session will go from 10:30 a.m. until noon. The afternoon panels begin at 12:30 p.m. and end at 5:00 p.m.

Tickets for the afternoon program are $2 and can be purchased from Dr. Phyllis Cahn, Department of Marine Science, C.W. Post College, Greenvale, N.Y. 11548; or from June Kieser, Littoral Society Seminar, 33-38 164th Street, Flushing, N.Y. 11358.

FLY-FISHING SEMINARS

Experts and beginners in the exciting and demanding sport of fly fishing will have three opportunities to learn new skills or sharpen up old ones at the 1975 Fly Fishing Seminars at Eldred Preserve this spring.

Sponsored by the Fenwick Institute of Fly Fishing, the weekend classes will be held Saturday and Sunday, April 5 and 6; May 3 and 4, and May 31 and June 1.

The curriculum unravel the mysteries of tackle, entomology and artificial flies, knots, fly presentation, stream lore and wading. It also includes slides, films, demonstrations of all phases of fly presentation, and extensive individual casting practice. Jim Green, one of the world's great fly fishermen, wrote the Fenwick Textbook and helped create the curriculum.

There are four trout ponds and two streams on the grounds at Eldred, in addition to a tackle shop, snack bar, gourmet restaurant and cocktail lounge. Accommodations may be secured at the rustic but thoroughly modern motel on the premises.

The seminars are open to anyone interested in improving his techniques. Members of the student's family or friends are welcome at Eldred Preserve and may accompany the students to the barbecue dinner and "graduation" banquet at the seminar's conclusion for a nominal fee. For non-fishing members of the student's family, there is as well hiking, exploring, picnicking and other "wilderness" activities, all nearby; also shopping centers in adjacent Monticello, Port Jervis and Middletown.

The fee for the fly fishing seminars for each weekend program is $110., and motel and restaurant facilities are available on the premises. Winter motel rates (from $15 a day, double; from $23 a day single) are available for the April 5-6 and May 3-4 weekends. Summer motel rates (from $21 a day double, $18 per day single) will be in effect for the May 31-June 1 session.

For reservations and additional data

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on the seminars, advance registration and deposit information, write to Mr. Louis Cassaniti, General Manager, Eldred Preserve, PO.O Box 111, Eldred, N.Y. 12732 (Tel. 914-956-8316) or to Cheri Heiss, Fenwick Institute of Fly Fishing, P.O. Box 729, Westminster, Calif. 92683.

NEW STRIPED BASS GAMEFISH BILL NEEDS ANGLERS' SUPPORT

Save Our Stripers, a Sport-Conservation group representing thousands of New York State striped bass sport fishermen, has drafted a new gamefish bill for consideration by the 1975 State Legislature. The measure, A-5502, is sponsored by Assemblyman I. William Bianchi of Bellport and his bi-partisan co-sponsorship in the Assembly. It is designed to put an end to the netting and sale of striped bass in New York State, effective May 1, 1977.

Having succeeded in having the bill filed, SOS feels that actual passage now rests in the hands of all the sport fishermen who have sought protection for striped bass for many years. These anglers must now take time to write letters to their local assemblymen, urging that they vote for striped bass Gamefish Bill No. A-5502 when it is reported out of committee.

The climate for the bass bill was never better. If striper anglers "blow it" this year by failing to write their State Legislators, they may just as well forget about seeing the striper protected for many years to come.

An additional letter of support, sent to the bill's sponsor, Assemblyman I. William Bianchi, will also help. All correspondence should be addressed to (name of Assemblyman), Assembly Chamber, State Capitol, Albany, New York 12224.

COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN'S WORKSHOP & SEMINAR

AGENDA

Friday and Saturday, April 4 and 5.
11 A.M. Opening - Coffee, soda, sandwiches, Exhibits open.*
12 NOON - Film "Sonar" Application of Sonar for mid-water trawling (Courtesy of ITT Decca Marine). Film "Mid-Water Trawling" (Courtesy of ITT Decca Marine 40 Minutes total.
1 P.M. - Presentation - University of Rhode Island - Bob Taber, Bert Hillier. Gear development research, Hi-Rise nets, trawl performance and trouble shooting (Question and Films: University of Rhode Island, time permitting.
5 P.M. - Presentation: New York Ocean Science Lab. Friday Only: Dr. Robert J. Valenti - Research in Fish Farming - Striped bass and Blowfish (1 Hour).

Saturday only: Clarence Hickey - Research in Fish Migration, Tagging, Deformaties, Striped Bass and Bluefish (1 Hour).
6 P.M. - Presentation - U.S. Coast Guard - Electronis Group. Governors Island, N.Y. Loran A&C status. (Q & A period 1 Hour).
7 p.m. - Presentation - Seatronics Inc. Mr. John Lind, V.P. VHF - SSB - EPIRB - FCC requirements, installation techniques, applications, etc. (Q & A period 1 Hour).
8 P.M. - Conclusion.

SUNDAY, April 6.
12 NOON - 5 P.M. Exhibits only.
* ITT decca, Simrad Raytheon, Metal Marine, Intech, SBG and others. TO include the following operating equipment if possible: Radars, Loran A & C* Auto Pilots, VHF-FM Radios, SSB Fish Finders, Fish Scopes etc. (All day).

For Further Information, call (516) 477-1040.

The workshop will be held at the Takamatzia Hotel at Montauk.

SAFE BOATING COURSES IN LEVITTOWN

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 13-11 is sponsoring an adult boating safety and seamanship course at (Tentatively), Island Trees Library, 3501 Hempstead Tpk., Levittown, N.Y. 8 p.m., May 6, 1975.

Classes will be open to all small boat owners and their families, as well as non-boaters. A Certificate of Proficiency will be awarded to all who pass the final examination.

The Flotilla is also sponsoring a 4-lesson "Young Boatman Course" at Island Trees Library, 10 a.m., Sat. April 5, 1975.

New York State Navigation Law requires persons 10 through 15 years old to earn a boating safety certificate and have it on board when they operate a motor boat without the supervision of a person 16 years of age or older on the navigable waters of the State.

To help you earn this certificate, the "Make Sure-Make Shore" course is being made available locally by volunteer instructors and are free.

Additional Info: Mr. R. Bocina, 731-7719; Mr. E. Picard, 826-5608; Mr. K. Picard, 826-5608.

12-LESSON SAFE BOATING COURSE IN STONY BROOK

Flotilla 19-4 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxilary will conduct a Twelve (12) Lesson Safe Boating Course on the Basic Rules of Boating Safety, at the Stony Brook Yacht Club in Stony Brook, N.Y.

This Course begins Tuesday, March 25, 1975 at 8:00 P.M., (2000 Hours) and each Tuesday, there-after. There will be a nominal cost for class materials of approximately $10.00.

Boat owners and future boat owners and their families 16 and over are welcome. Certificates will be given to those who successfully complete this course. For information, contact the Public Education Officer at 265-3694 or the Flotilla Commander at 751-1398—(Late Arrivals Accepted)

APRIL SHOWERS...

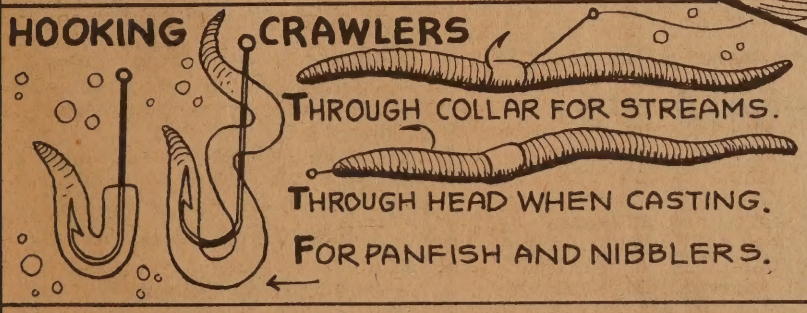
BY FRED GUARDINEER

...BRING MAY FLOWERS, GET THE FLOUNDERS TO MOVE AND INSPIRE FRESHWATER FISH TO BITE. YOU CAN ALSO GET YOUR SPRING SUPPLY OF NIGHT CRAWLERS WITH A FLASHLIGHT OR BY SPADING THE GARDEN. THE DRAWING AT LEFT WAS MADE ABOARD THE CAPTREE OPEN BOAT "CAPT. WAYNE" DURING AN APRIL SHOWER. DESPITE THE GOOD FISHING NOBODY SEEMS TO BE JUMPING FOR JOY! IT WAS COLD OUT THERE. *WEAR PLENTY OF CLOTHES, YOU CAN ALWAYS TAKE THEM OFF.*

TROLLING A NIGHT CRAWLER ON A SPINNER RIG WORKED WELL FOR ME IN SOUTHARD'S POND.

LET HIM TAKE ALL THE LINE HE WANTS AND BE PATIENT. SET THE HOOK WHEN HE'S SWALLOWED IT WAY DOWN AND CAN'T GET AWAY.

HOOKING CRAWLERS



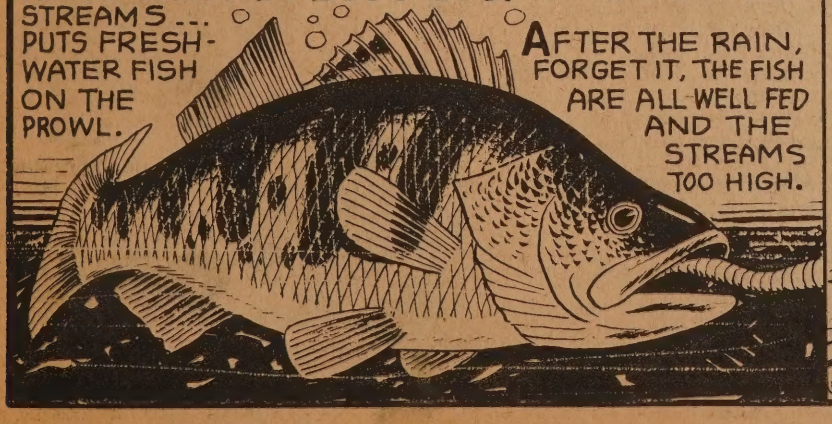
THROUGH COLLAR FOR STREAMS.

THROUGH HEAD WHEN CASTING.

FOR PANFISH AND NIBBLERS.

RAIN WASHES BUGS ETC. INTO LAKES AND STREAMS ... PUTS FRESH-WATER FISH ON THE PROWL.

AFTER THE RAIN, FORGET IT, THE FISH ARE ALL WELL FED AND THE STREAMS TOO HIGH.



FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE HISTORY OF BIRDWATCHING, A *"ROSS GULL"* HAS BEEN SEEN SOUTH OF THE ARCTIC AND LOCAL ORNITHOLOGISTS ARE ALL-A-DITHER. THIS SPECIE IS SMALLER THAN OUR COMMON SEA GULL AND HAS A ROSY PINK BREAST AND A BLACK COLLAR. IF YOU SEE ONE EATING YOUR FISH HEADS, CALL THE NAT'L. AUDUBON SOCIETY... N.Y. CITY 212-832-3200.

Surf Side

with Doc Muller

FLOUNDERS: *Part Two*
Surfmen's Flounder Bait & Rig

What does a surf fishermen do gloomy dead of winter or in the promising early spring when the blues and bass are still a part of the future? Head south? Well, if you're lucky we might get south now and again. But, realistically, most of us will stay close to Long Island and watch the snow fly and the March winds tear at the empty trees.

Don't sit home and mope, there's work to be done. Get in the car and drive to any of the south shore beaches. Each winter the storms that work their way tirelessly up the east coast stir up the sand, uncovering thousands of surf clams. The heaving swells lift the clams and tumble them along the bottom. The mollusk must close tight or be overwhelmed by the shifting sands. Frequently, the clams will be thrown high up on the beach and the receding tide leaves them stranded.

Normally, clams can work themselves quickly into the sand, but these bivalves have been tossed and tumbled to the point where it may take a day or so to regain their composure. The wise surf fishermen can take advantage of this situation. Walk the beaches near the high and low tide marks after a storm has moved through. The clams will be semi-buried in the wet sand. You'll have competition, though. The sea gulls will probably get most of the clams if the wait until the day after the storm, so try and make your efforts count by arriving while the storm is waning and the tide is falling.

I have found many large clams around the jetty at Jones Beach West End II. At low tide you can search the sands of the pocket and then walk the thin rim of sand on the inlet side of the jetty, too. Bring along a burlap bag or an onion bag to carry home the goodies. Each clam should be inspected since many will be empty or cntain sand and mud.

These clams can be used as bait for many species, but at this time of the year we want them for the flounder. Cut the tougher parts of the clam into strips about four inches long. Separate the stomach and other soft parts, but don't discard them. They can be used as chum when the need arises.

Many fishermen rate the surf clam as an inferior bait for flounder; that's because they have probably used clams which were either frozen or which had soured. You have an advantage with the fresh clams, so don't lose it by freezing the strips. It is preferable to salt them down in a plastic container and then store them in the refrigerator. They'll keep for many months and be tough, tasty, and fresh when you use them.

The clams work well this way without additional embellishment, but the addition of a little red food color is more appealing—to the fishermen if not to the flounder! The red strips can be threaded onto a flounder hook and tossed out in place of the expensive sea worms and delicate mussels.

Fresh mussels are by far the best flounder bait in east end waters, whether you're fishing from a boat or from the beach. The force of the cast, however, usually causes the mussel to be lost, yet I always bait a least one hook with the yellow mollusk and I try to push the point of the hook through the toughest parts. Sometimes it stays on the hook and sometimes it doesn't.

Chumming is an important and sometimes essential part of flounder fishing, yet the surf fishermen cannot chum. Therefore, he must deliver his baits on the money. As usual, he will have to know the spot like the "back of his hand" or come home empty. Flounders like the slopes of a hole or bar so keep the baits in productive water.

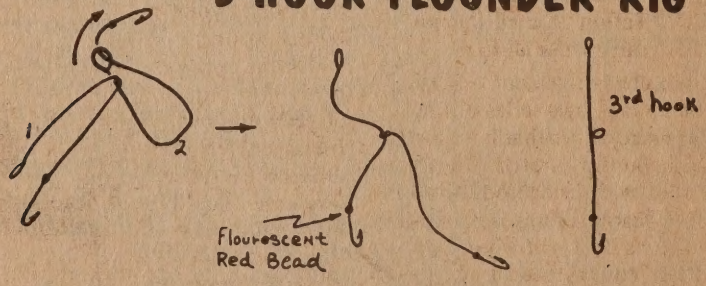
Worms are worth digging in the east end, Long Island Sound. If you can find a slimey mud bar at low water, a pitch-fork will do the trick, but on the gravel bars and in the rock piles a fishermen can sometimes collect a dozen worms by turning over rocks and feeling in the sand or mud under them.

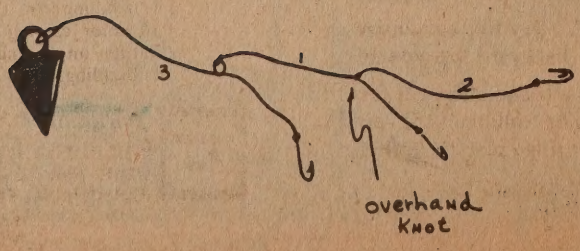
It pays to bring along a few dozen fresh garden worms too. The earthworms are delicate and die and/or discolor quickly in the briny, but when the action is fast the flounders will find them and begin the snack before they have lost their appeal.

The search for baits is usually affected by the expense. At around $2.00 a dozen, I wouldn't buy worms even if the flounders suddenly turned gourmet. But other factors need consideration and I think that one of these, freshness, is given only a passing thought when it deserves more.

I hope you'll never forget your bait, but please leave the hardware in the

3-HOOK FLOUNDER RIG





basement workshop where it can do the most good. Of course, I'm referring to the brass wire hangers that some fishermen insist are an important part of baitfishing in the surf.

The reasons for avoiding the metal are numerous: the leader wraps around it, hooks get caught in the loop, seaweed "prefers" spreaders to anything else—well, almost—and because the sinker acts as a fulcrum it is harder to feel the feeble peckings of the fish.

The rig that I suggest you use is neither original nor cumbersome, in spite of its appearance. It is easy to make whether you start with store-bought snelled hooks or whether you prepare your own. I begin with Chestertown #6 or #8 hooks—each with a 12-inch leader.

Insist on monofilament leader of at least 20 to 30 pound test. Heavy weight leader is not necessary to hold the fish, but it does tend to be stiffer and thus the hooks spread away from each other in the water while at the same time offering some resistance to the abrasive effects of sand, shells, rocks, and barnacles.

Select one of the leadered hooks and bend the mono mid-way between the terminal loop and the hook. Pass the terminal loop of the second hook through the bend loop, then thread the second hook through its own loop. Tie an overhand knot in the leader of the first hook at its mid-point and pull tight. Tie a loop mid-way up its leader of the third hook and pass the loop of the first leadered hook through this mid-point loop. Once again pass the first and second hooks and their leaders through this loop and pull tight.

Secure the terminal loop of the third hook to a pyramid sinker and you're ready to fish. (See diagram sequence.) The size of the sinker will depend upon where you're fishing, but you can usually figure on 4-ounces or more in the heavy surf and in inlets and around 2-ounces in the quiet waters of Long Island Sound.

The rig can be used as a two-hook rig or expanded to four hooks. It is often wise to diversify the baits. Try a worm, a piece of clam, and some mussel in the hopes that one of these will be on the menu for the day. If you're a guy who likes to really lean into a cast, the mussel will probably be lost. However, if you tie a six-inch piece of ncp (no color preservative) yellow rod-winding thread to the snell so that two 3-inch threads hang down toward the barb of the hook, you can use these to tie the mussel to the hook more securely. Next week we'll examine the where and how to deliver the baited rigs into productive water.

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DIVING

with John Fennimore

SKIN & SCUBA SAFETY
Part One

Scuba diving in Florida is a very pleasurable experience, especially when you're diving on one of the most beautiful reefs in the Keys. I was drifting down toward the bottom and upon hitting the 30-foot depth my air was cut off. Gasping, choking, all I was able to get was water. Remaining calm, I blew out, and headed for the surface. After breaking water, I shoved the snorkel into my mouth and swam for the boat.

OK, so it wasn't any big deal, but it could have been. In this case my buddy was waiting for me about 30 feet away. It was February and, having been out of the diving scene for a few months, I had trouble equalizing the pressure in my ears. Not being able to reach my buddy without hurting my ears, I took advantage of the depth. Blowing some of the air out of my lungs was done in order to prevent an embolism due to expanding air. I know that every *Certified diver* knows this, but I thought that I'd mention it for those who are going to be Certified. It was attached to my mask, not shoved in my belt. If the water was rough, currents strong or the distance from the boat great, I was prepared for this too. I was wearing a wet suit and a CO2 vest. By dropping the belt or inflating the vest, swimming under adverse conditions would be tedious, but not dangerous!

By the way, the cause of all my trouble was a five-cent part. Inside the rubber exhaust port (that's where the exhaust bubbles come out) in the metal housing, there is a small rubber disc. This is usually called a purge valve, or exhaust valve. It rots. Have it replaced every so often. Usually the dive shop has a tool to do it with, and it only takes a second.

Before I start talking about what to do in emergencies, you need something to do it with. Therefore, let's discuss equipment. A CO2 vest, buoyancy compensator, or air vest is a must. Without it, diving is a dangerous game—one that you can't win. A knife is another must; when diving you can get tangled up in ropes or old fishing line. Without a knife you could get hopelessly entangled. A knife is also a nice thing to have, anyway. I even use it when hunting, and I see a flatfish.

A snorkel is another important item. Even if you're scuba diving, it's a must. Snorkeling keeps your neck straight, allowing a free flow of air into your lungs. This decreases the restriction on your breathing. You're able to swim farther, and you are able to rest in the water, completely stopped.

A diver's flag is extremely important. As far as I know, N.Y. State law prohibits boats from coming closer than 150 feet to a boat displaying a diver's flag, or to approach at speeds not exceeding 5 mph.

The scuba diver should have more safety equipment than the skin diver. A submersible tank air pressure gauge is an essential. It is stupid not to have one; there is just no other word for it. The diver now is constantly aware of his air supply. A "J" valve (constant reserve mechanism) is nice to have, being that you know you'll have a reasonable air reserve in case you run out, but I wouldn't rely on it. First, it is too easy to switch on, and if you unknowingly breathe your reserve out, it could put you in a dangerous situation. Secondarly, it is a spring mechanism that is easily broken. A submersible air pressure gauge and a "K" valve tank (no reserve, straight "on" and "off") is a very good system. If you want to be really safe, a "J" valve and a submersible gauge is what you want. But a "J" valve without a gauge is no good.

A watch is only necessary when diving over 30 feet. A watch must be waterproof and tested to at least 5 atmospheres. A watch that is just water resistant and without any pressure test won't be able to stand the pressure. Also make sure that it is a "Skin Diver's" watch, and not just that style. I personally have had $15 department store watches tested to 330 feet leak on me at 120 feet, and some watches leak as shallow as 30 feet.

Along with a watch, a depth gauge is important, especially for deep diving. You must know your depth in order to compute, or to avoid, decompression. Also, a set of laminated decom charts are necessary if you don't know the depth before you dive, but you should! If you plan to make more than one dive, or want to more accurately monitor your first, a decom meter is the thing for you. It will automatically calculate your decompression, or prevent the need for it by telling you when to come up.

A compass could also be considered a piece of safety equipment. With the ever-increasing boat traffic, the diver must know where he is going at all times. This is especially true when diving in an inlet or on a sandy beach where everything looks the same. It is very embarrassing to go diving in an inlet and come up on the wrong side. A compass could also be valuable to the skin diver. If you are carried off in the current, or in high seas, seeing the shore would be impossible—especially when a fog is added to your troubles. But with a compass, at least you know where land is.

But having safety equipment isn't enough; you must know how to use it. Next time we'll take a look at some common situations.

Penn Yan

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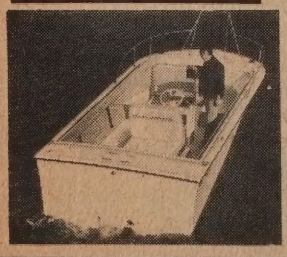

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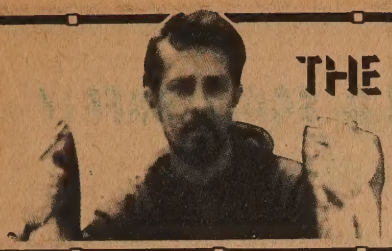

THE BOTTOM LINE

with Scott Simons

LOCATING FISH: Part I
Where the Fish Aren't

The easiest—and most popular—way of finding fish is to let other fishermen find them for you. It's also cheating, unsportsmanlike and unfair to those who have taken the trouble to locate fish on their own. And often not all that productive, to boot! This week we'll discuss the disadvantages of relying on other sources to locate fish.

Many anglers make the mistake of constantly following "last week's" fish. By this I mean they read the fishing reports in *The Long Island Fisherman* and the newspaper fishing columns and flock to the latest hot spots. The trouble is that these reports are generally several days old. As any experienced fisherman knows, fish can change their feeding patterns in a matter of minutes; expecting them to maintain identical behavior patterns over many days borders on "wishfull thinking".

For example, if this week a source reports big weakfish at buoy 5 off Heckscher State Park, scores of anglers would congregate there on the weekend. They may do poorly, because during the time-lapse between when the reports were made and the weekend the weakfish could have moved a mile into mid-bay to buoy 3, where the boats are bailing fish.

The next weekend the situation will take place in reverse as reports of weakfish at buoy 3 attract anglers and the fish decide to reappear at buoy 5. reports are worthless—far from it! There is a wealth of valuable data that may aid you, despite the fact the reports are dated. The reports themselves let you know the general area where each species of fish is being taken. Pick out potentially important bits of information, such as which stage of the tide the fish were hitting on, preferred baits, hot plugs and lures, depth of water, time of day, etc.

Analyze this information and use your own knowledge to try to anticipate where and when the next hot spot will be. In short, find your own fish, rather than hope the fishing reports will locate them for you to within 12 inches.

Another ridiculous situation repeats itself day after day on the water. Anglers leave the dock in their boats and travel until they see the first cluster of two or more skiffs anchored with lines over the side and—the fishing spot for the day has been located! The trouble with this method of fish location is elementary: what if the first guy who anchored there doesn't know what the heck he's doing?

In a short time there are 10 or 15 boats around him who *also* don't know what they are doing, and, since all are consoled by the fact that nobody around them is catching fish, why should they be?

Another common situation is overshooting the fish, traveling over schools of fish on the way to a "hot spot." This happened often this past winter when many cod fishermen insisted on going to 120-130 feet of water, passing up loads of cod at 70 and 80 feet. Further is not better! Surf casters often cast beyond the bass and jetty jockies will often throw their rigs far over the heads of the big blackfish at their feet.

I personally experienced this situation twice last year. One morning I was on my way from Heckscher to the Bay Shore Marina to get gas. I wan't any further than five or six-hundred yards from the gas pumps when fish began breaking water all around the boat. Quickly casting a pink shrimp, I began taking weakfish after weakfish mixed with an occasional small blue.

Meanwhile, the mosquito fleet was pouring out of the marina, passing me by on the way to buoy 4 off Heckscher Park, the recent hot spot. Not one boat stopped! I still find it hard to believe that none of them noticed me taking fish. Could it be they just didn't believe their eyes? I had the fish all to myself until my last pink shrimp was disintegrated by the weaks' fangs.

A similar episode took place last spring on the Connetquot River, where I dock my Grady White at a private residence until I move it to Montauk at the end of May. We had just cast-off the dock lines and had moved perhaps 50 feet from the bulkhead when Frank spotted fish swirling on top. Suspecting weakfish, we began casting Salty Dogs that had already been rigged up.

Surprise! Striped bass, one after another. Okay, so half of them were shorts; the surprise of catching them more than made up for what they lacked in size. We boated 26 before some idiot with an I/O he got for Christmas ripped a hole in the water between us and the bulkhead, scattering the bass to parts unknown.

Which brings us to another place where the fish aren't—where they were until you spooked them with your boat. When you spot a school of surface-feeding fish, see which direction they are working in. Then slowly maneuver your boat in front of them, cut your engine and let the fish come to you. Never try to move into the school under power! If the movement of fish is erratic, approach just close enough to cast to the fringe of the school. As long as you don't create a disturbance with your engine and the fish can keep the baitfish corraled, the school will stay on indefinitely.

That looks good on paper, but in reality is a fantasy. It never ceases to amaze me how you can be alone on the water all day, find a school of feeding fish, and suddenly 50 boats come from out of nowhere, chucking lures all over the place at fish that are no longer there.

This is where the "law of diminishing returns" comes into effect: the first boat to find fish will catch plenty, until the second or third boatload of anglers arrives, who may pick a few until the whole armada charges into the scene and the fishing drops dead.

The goal here, obviously, is to be the first boat to locate the fish. And this isn't done by traveling with the fleet all day! It's done by getting out on your own and scouting around.

A classic example of how this "Firstest-gets-the-mostest" routine works was demonstrated last fall during the bass run. The day was flat calm, no wind, unlimited visibility—making it very easy to move around. I cruised the area in front of Montauk lighthouse, searching for schools of 3-inch mullet, which appeared as large brown stains.

Casting a small bucktail without porkrind to "match-the-hatch," I usually boated one school bass and was playing a second before another boat arrived. By the time a second boat arrived, two bass were in the boat and I was heading for the next pod of baitfish. Immediately hooking-up, I could look back and see a small armada of skiffs frantically zig-

(Continued on page 13.)

FRESHWATER FISHING
with Angelo Peluso

SELECTING A ROD
Part One

The end of World War II marked the beginning of a revolutionary new fishing system that would have considerable impact upon the American fishing scene. I am referring to the "Age of Spinning."

Though this form of tackle was available to the angling fraternity prior to the war, the demands of a war-time economy tended to suppress the growth potential of spinning. So, for all practical purposes, post-war tackle production gave this method of fishing its first real foot-hold in the United States. The initial exposure was all that was needed. Spinning became the fastest growing and most popular mode of angling.

I would venture to say that the majority of anglers taking up the sport after WW II began their fishing activities with this "new-fangled" type of gear. One of the primary reasons for this is the relative ease of operation of spinning equipment, as compared to the disciplines that must be mastered with either fly casting or bait casting tackle. It is quite possible for a novice angler to make a purchase of a new spin outfit, assemble it, tie on an artificial, make a cast and proceed to catch fish.

Some of you might be saying that this isn't such a big deal. You might even have done something similar with a fly or bait casting rig. But, the fact of the matter is that a novice fly fisher or bait caster would more than likely, on the first cast, wind up with either a hung-up back cast or a miserable bird's nest. The point that I am attempting to make is that spinning has the qualities needed to immediately reward and reinforce the efforts of a new fishermam.

Even though this is a fairly simple to learn and easy to apply technique, there are specialty areas within the realm of spinning that require the refinement of certain skills. There are also a number of circumstances that lend themselves totally to the application of spin gear.

The wide array of spinning rods and reels presently on the market has enough variety to offer equipment capable of adequately handling most fishing situations. These and other reasons have caused me to develop a special fondness for this rather unique type of rod and reel combination. Some of my thoughts on spinning equipment follow.

To begin with, let's examine the rod. For the majority of fresh water situations, spinning rods can be categorized within a range of 4½ to 7½ feet. These are principally of the one-handed type and are of fiberglass construction. If I were to recommend an all purpose rod, it would be one that is 6½ feet in length, able to effectively handle lures of ¼ to ½ oz., and match up with 6-10 pound test line.

There is such a specialized variety of rod actions these days that the determination of a correct action for your particular type of fishing can be as difficult as the actual choice of the rod itself. Rod actions generally range from those classified a ultra-light to those of "heavy" action, as in the worm-rod class.

The basic determination of a rod's action is based upon a number of factors, some of which are: 1) the rod blank's overall parabolic action, 2) taper, 3) physical weight, 4) line handling ability and 5) lure casting capability. Once again, for a practical, all-pupose rod my 6½' choice would be matched to a "medium" action. Actions other than this middle of the road variety tend to be used for any number of specialized purposes and would not be very practical for all-around use.

Another feature that I consider worthy of mention is that of the all-fiberglass ferrules. New developments in manufacturing have created glass ferrule rods that are capable of retaining most of the rod action, unhamperes by the presence of metal ferrules between the sections. The metal creates dead spots that affect the rod's strength and casting potential. The new two-piece designs constructed with all-glass features eliminate the dead spots and offer the angler a degree of efficiency approaching that of one-piece models.

Looking again at the aspect of practicality, my preference in this respect would be a two-piece rod as opposed to a multi-segmented one. If available space for transporting the rod is not a major concern, then my hands-down choice would be a one-piece rod; the action of a one-piece has to be felt to

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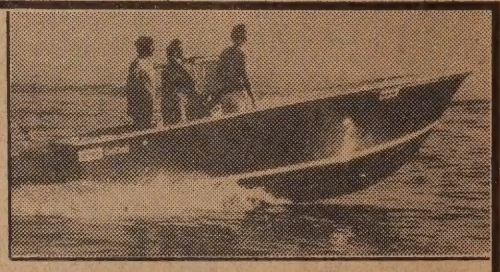

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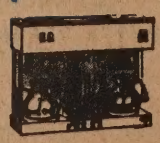

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be believed.

Spinning guides have also been the subject of much change. During the past few years the conventional chrome-plated stainless steel guides (and to some extent the agate ones) have been replaced, on most quality rods, with either carboloy or, more recently, ceramic guides. I happen to have developed a fondness for the ceramic type since they offer less resistance to line flow, and consequently less possibility for abrasion. The additional cost for rods with the ceramic guides is really insignificant when we compare their useful life to that of the other types.

Though the composition of guides has changed, they still perform the function that they were originally intended to do, that of line control. Located on the underside of the rod, and arranged in order of decreasing size, the guides gather and then funnel the line, in a smooth flow, up the shaft and through the tip guide. Their placement and configuration is made necessary by the movement of the line off of the reel spool.

A part of the reel that cannot be neglected is the handle and the type of reel seat that it is fitted with. For all practical purposes, there are actually two types of handles that should be given consideration. One is of a solid cork construction with two circular reel-securing rings. The other involves a partial cork grip with a metal seating device to which the reel is secured by means of one or two "screw on" clamps. The ring variety is usually preferred on the lighter rods, while the metal seat type has gained popularity on the heavier rods.

I have a definite preference for the latter design; especially on the rods that I use to chuck heavy lures; there is less of a chance for the reel to work its way loose, since it is actually screwed into place.

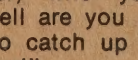
Next Week: Selecting a Spinning Reel.

WHERE THE FISH AREN'T
(Continued from page 11.)

zagging over the area I had just vacated. By the time they realized the bass had spooked and sounded, one would spot me fighting another fish and the scene repeated itself again and again.

This was fast-moving, frantic fishing, and eventually one caught up with me. It turned out to be a friend of mine, Skipper, who yelled over, "Where the hell are you going? I've been trying to catch up to you for almost an hour!"

So I told him, and Skip joined me in some great bass fishing until the turn of the tide.



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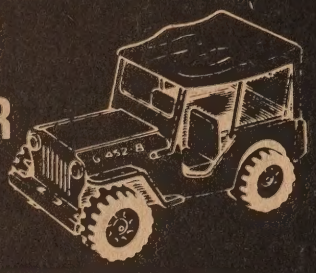

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Worm Trolling

by Dick Mermon

Natural baits are still the best producers of fish for hook and line fishermen, and are especially productive for the striper angler. These fish are finicky feeders at times; the bait must be presented in the proper manner and be of the appropriate type for the season at hand. Sea worms are always on the menu, listed as one of the top ten foods of the striper.

Actually, earth worms, tape worms, cinder worms, blood worms and sand worms all work if presented at the right time and place. Most familiar to fishermen are the latter two, and they are the types used most frequently by trollers.

True beginning of the worm trolling season is the so-called "ice-out" stage of salt water. Stripers at this period are grubbing for food and sea worms are most abundant.

Worm trolling is not quite a lost art, but falls into the lower list of striper-hunting systems. The reason for fishermen's reluctance to use this method is the feeling that it is too difficult to comprehend. As in all manner of fishing for striped bass, secrets are well-guarded, but there is no secret to this particular process.

Along our Long Island shores are the finest worm-trolling areas, especially along Long Island Sound and its adjacent harbors. The bottom conditions, ledges and rises of huge bolders, form channels which bass use in their roving habits. Also within the same structure are currents and flows, bringing forth various baits including sea worms. It is within these channels that the worm is trolled.

Tide plays a very important role in this natural baiting method. Protruding rocks, which were seen at low tide, at higher tides become a hazzard to the troller but protection to bait and bass. Care must be taken in trolling not to strike one of these submerged obstacles, otherwise damage will surely occur to boat or motor.

The worm is hooked through the jaws, and out ¼-inch below. Second hook, point covered, is placed in the body. Which should be allowed to hang naturally.

Exposed areas at low tide afford the best trolling locations at flood water.

The object of worm trolling is to have the bait slowly cover as much territory as possible, until the fish are located. Choice of rigs is up to the individual fisherman. It could be a plain worm, June bug spinner combination, willow leaf spinner, beaded spinner, or even the turkey bone, imitation or pure. Whatever the choice, it is attached directly to a line of no more than 25-pound test. The worm must work naturally in the water and heavy line will prevent this.

Troll your bait from thirty to one hundred feet back from the stern of the moving boat. Its depth is controlled by the speed of the boat in relation to that of the water. The worm is trolled where water depths are no deeper that fifteen feet, and may be as shallow as the boat will go without damage to the bottom. The spinner and worm must be kept under the surface at about one third the water's depth at all times; rarely are stripers taken by worm trollers in waters deeper than five feet of flood water. As a matter of fact, places which are completely exposed at low water are super locations.

Weights or sinkers of any type are not needed. In fact they deter from the natural movement of the worm, causing hang-ups and snags. There is sufficient weight from the rig used to keep it under the surface.

Sea worms of slightly larger size should be used. I prefer one worm to a rig, though other use two or three. The top hook is passed through the front end of the worm and out again, no deeper than a quarter-inch. If a second hook is used, it is imbedded in the body of the worm, allowing it to dangle in a natural form.

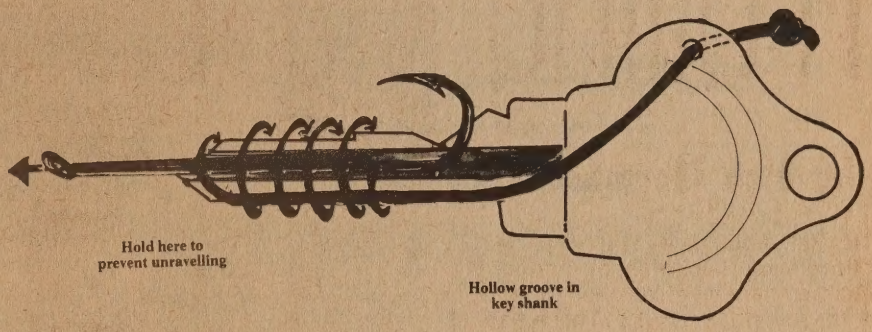
The boat is slowed to a mere crawl, but never to a complete standstill. The spinner and worm is free-spooled to a distance where it is completely underwater. The reel is locked in position, preventing any more line from being released.

Bass are not vicious feeders when it cmes to worms. The strike is not a sudden jolt as with some of the other natural baits, but a series of light taps. When these are felt the rod tip is dropped back, slackening the bait to the fish. On the second series of picks the rod is brought up, setting the hook. If the fish is struck too soon, the bait will be cut in half.

Trolling worms may seem a producer of only small fish, but this is not so. Cow bass also feed on these small natural baits, but the big fish are usually lost due to the underwater structure of the area trolled. Checking record shows that natural baits catch most of the bigger fish; sea worms should not be ignored by the bass fisherman.

Hook Snelling With A Key

by Matt Ahern



Don't throw away that old house key. It can be quickly made into an efficient hook sneller, and, being made of rust-proof metal, it will give you a lifetime of service. Should you misplace it, you can make another in just a few minutes.

There are two minor preparations to make.

First: Place key in vise and file off all serrations up to the first deep vee. Be sure it is smooth.

Second: Drill a small hole through key, as shown in the accompanying sketch. Use a number 40 or 50 drill, depending on the size of your leader material. These keys are so simple to make, it is a good idea to make one with the appropriate hole for each size of leader material you use in snelling your hooks.

Here is how to snell a hook with the key.

Take a twenty-inch piece of leader material and tie an over-hand knot at the end. Put the free end through the drilled hole in the key. The knot will prevent the leader from pulling through the hole, and will snub against the key when the snelling knot is tightened.

Place your hook under the key and along its groove, with the hook lying sideways and facing you, and hold the shank tightly against the key. Working from the end of the key, make five turns of mono TOWARD you over the key and hook shank. Then take the free end and run it under the FIVE turns along key groove, then through the hook eye.

Holding the key, pull smoothly on the leader material. It will slide off the key onto the hook shank. Tighten carefully to the hook eye, and you now have a professional-appearing barrel knot.

That's all there is to it. As a final step, cut the key-end close to the barrel knot with a nail clipper. Finish with a perfection loop, and you will have a very serviceable, quickly made, snelled hook.

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Acquiring Your Own Bait

by Terry Wallace

Digging for bait is done at low tide, when productive areas are exposed.

The rise of prices has affected almost every type of industry in the United States today and the bait industry has been no exception. Last year the prices of bait really got out of hand. These prices saw some fishermen pay as much as $2.00 for a dozen worms and $.55 for a frozen bunker or mackerel. Most striped bass fishermen using live eels also felt the squeeze when they paid from $1.35 to $1.50 and more in some places for three live bass eels. Fluke fishermen paid between $.55 and $.95 for a small package of spearing, to almost $1.00 to $1.25 for the same amount of sand eels. These are only a couple of examples of what the prices have been in the past. What kind of prices will we have to face in the future?

These prices have affected my partners and I, and on many occasions we have been fortunate enough to catch our own bait in a reasonable amount of time—without any inconvenience. This is my recommendation to anyone who is as sick of these high prices as I am.

Since I mentioned the prices of worms, first let us examine these. Many anglers don't realize that worms—both blood and sand—can be easily acquired on Long Island, particularly on the north shore beaches. The only thing to remember about digging worms is to dig when the tide is completely out. Other than this knowledge, the angler need only bring a pitchfork and a little muscle. I have always found that digging in the black, muddy areas pays off the best when seeking the worm, Normally, you can get enough worms for a day's fishing in less than an hour or so.

Other types of bait which can be obtained along these beaches are mussels and clams. Use the same procedure while digging for clams, but remember to dig down at least a foot and a half if you don't get any positive results within a reasonable length of time. Mussels can be found near rocks and other structures in the water, and also along the bottom and on sod banks. They are highly effective when used for flounder fishing. Simply pull them away from the rock or botton where found, but do not damage the sod banks by pulling away chunks of this valuable structure with the mussels.

Catching fiddler crabs, which are a mainstay to the diet of the blackfish, is done by locating the fiddler's hole and simply stepping down a little behind the hole until you see the crab come up.

The second major way of catching baits for fishing is by netting, potting or trapping baitfish and eels. The term baitfish applies to spearing, sand eels and killies, while the eel is in a classification by itself. When netting these baitfish the drag net is used by two people who spread the net and drag the shoreline or creek slowly, then pull the net up on the beach to collect the baits. Enough baitfish can be caught in a couple of hours to last a long time.

Baitfish can also be caught with a dip net. These nets are small nets which can be lowered into the water from docks and jetties and are worth the investment of a few dollars. When using the dip net, lower it into the water about a foot or so and drop some bunker, cat food or anything similar over

the net. When the baitfish appear and feed, simply lift the net and you have fresh bait.

Since I do a good deal of live eel fishing for stripers, I do a lot of my own eel potting. Potting eels is easily done if you have an eel pot or killie trap, which I prefer. The only difference is the size of the pot and the size of the opening at each end. If female horseshoe crabs are available they are the best bet when chopped up and placed in the pot. If they aren't available, clams will work as well. Set the pots in deep holes around bulkheads and canals for best results. This is where eels are likely to be found. Outside of this there is no other work to do. Simply bait your pots and place them in a safe location. Come back in a few hours to collect your rewards.

Since I mentioned the high cost of frozen bunker and mackerel, I am obligated to mention ways of obtaining them. Usually I look around the Sound or along the beach for signs of bunker. When I sight a school, I use a weighted 9/0 treble hook to snag them. This is done by casting the treble out and retrieving it with short jerks through the school. When you snag one simply put it in the coolest place aboard the boat or, if you are on the beach, bury it in the sand. One pleasant word of caution: when you have snagged the bunker, expect the unexpected. You can never tell when a big bass has his eyes on your bunker. After catching a substantial number, bring them home for freezing.

When going out to get mackerel, make the most fun as possible out of the trip. Use a light, one-handed spinning rod and reel with a small diamond jig or tube and have a good time. It is days like this that I try to convert catching bait for the future into loads of fun. Again, after you have obtained enough, freeze them and keep them for safekeeping and protection against higher prices and times of scarcity.

Besides the price of worms and baitfish which have increased drastically, all different types of chum have also climbed the price scale. Making your own chum is very worthwhile, especially when it costs you nothing but a little spare time, and both bunker chum and clam chum are easily made. After obtaining the basic staples such as the clams or bunker, cut them up and run them through a grinder. A large blender can be of value, but it is very time consuming when cutting up these baits because of the small amounts which blenders can hold. Also—keep one eye on your wife, who might take a dim view of this. Cut the baits up into small pieces and—most important—don't waste any of the juices. Many fishermen don't realize that these juices are what attract the fish you are seeking. In short, they are the appetizer to a good meal.

Obtaining shrimp for weakfish chum is an art in itself. Shrimp can be obtained with a small outboard while dragging a basket net along the shoreline at very slow speeds. After dragging the net, which is about 3½ feet wide, for about fifteen minutes, stop and pull in the net and collect the shrimp. They can also be acquired without a boat by using a small umbrella net which should be dragged along bulkheads in small creeks and canals, much the same way as if in a boat, but by hand. There is really no other preparation required for shrimp when they are going to be used as chum. However, if you plan on fishing a complete tide you will need 7-9 quarts of shrimp; this can become expensive if you must buy them.

This year you may possibly be using one of these methods to catch your bait if you want to go fishing. Nobody ever thought that Long Island would ever see meat shortages or gasoline shortages, but I for one am now a believer in the unbelievable.

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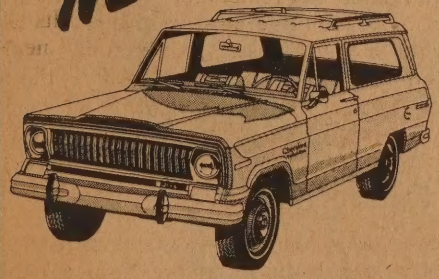

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ALL ABOUT FLOUNDER

Babylon and Islip areas of Great South Bay

by "Doc" Grell

WHERE TO GO

See attached map for areas marked with "F." All of these spots are excellent flounder-producing areas if you employ a little intelligence to your fishing for these delicious-eating fish.

The attached map is in reality a miniature of an available map of this area. I urge strongly that all prospective flounder fisherman purchase the U.S. Department of Commerce 120-SC chart of this area of the Great South Bay (available at most marine supply stores).

This is a navigational chart giving you depths as well as the geology. You will want to mark it up with F's as I have, pointing out to you areas that are potentially good to excellent flounder fishing spots.

Most of these areas have the right type of bottoms for flounder, which like muddy to fine gravel. These bottoms also have many things that flounder like to eat...marine worms, small crustaceans, clams, and so on. In using this map, it is imperative that you employ basic techniques which I will describe in considerable detail in this article.

Before I forget, I do not spend more than 20 minutes at a location that fails to produce fish after I have stirred up the bottom with my plunger, chummed with black mussels, and cast my bait to a wide area around my boat. Matter of fact, you might say that I work a little at catching these fish and try to apply a little intelligence to my fishing strategy.

I do not believe that sooner or later the fish will come to me. If they do not come to me within a 20-minute interval, especially when I do everything in my power to prepare a banquet for them (black mussels, clams or worms), I go to another potentially "hot spot" and prepare another banquet. To fish all day and catch four or five fish in front of the Good Samaritan Hospital when the fish are really eating off Heckscher is a complete waste of time unless you are out for the fresh air, which is still the cheapest commodity that we have out on the Great South bay. At least, far cheaper than a dozen blood worms. s.

WHAT I HIGHLY RECOMMEND FOR FISHING TACKLE

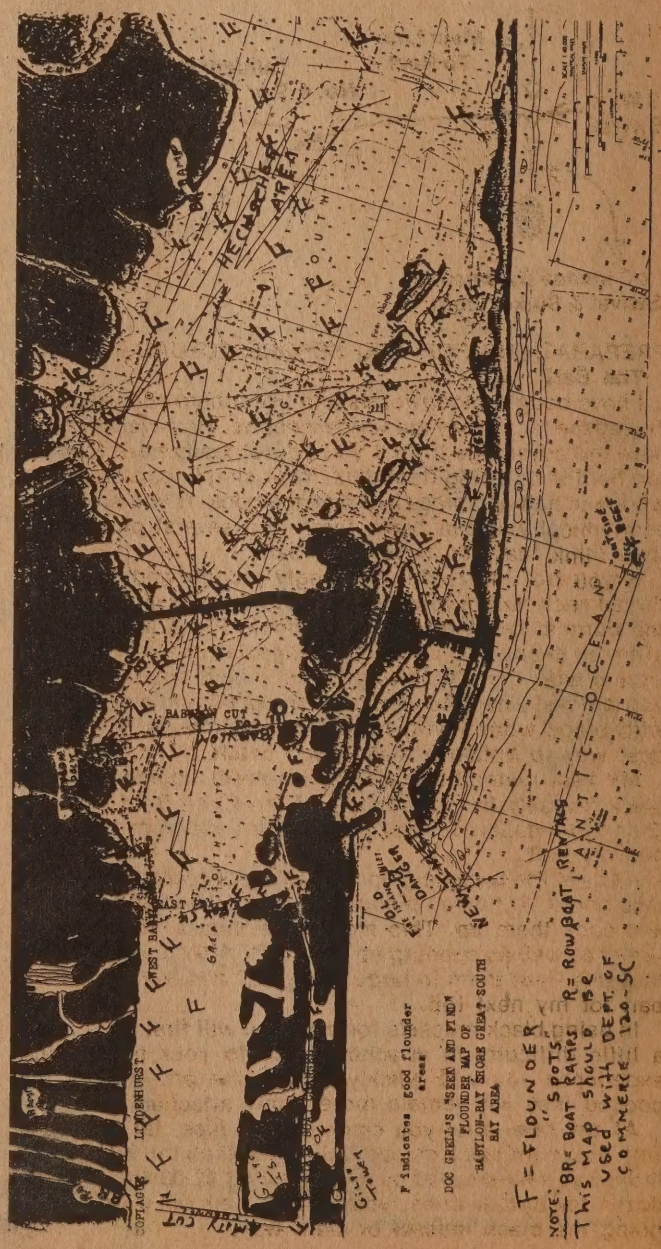
Rod and Reel

To truly enjoy catching these fine-fighting, good-eating little fish, I recommend that you purchase (if you do not have one) a small spin reel and a very light bait casting rod. I personally use a small Penn Spin Reel No. 720 filled with either 6 lb. (Dorado) test line or 6 lb. Stren mounted on a 3-ounce Daiwa No. 4031, 6-foot (extremely whippy and sensitive tip) pole.

There are many excellent makes of small reels and rods to select fro to suit your personal tastes. Once you have made these original purchases you will have excellent equipment to catch not only flounder, but other fine fish such as weakfish, fluke, striped bass and bluefish. Most important you will become a sportfisherman in addition to giving the fish a fighting chance. In a nutshell, your enjoyment of truly feeling a fish on the end of your line will have begun.

To go fishing for flounder with 20 lb. test line or, even worse, 30 lb. test line, large hooks, stiff codfish poles and 3-ounce to 6-ounce sinkers is probably the major reason why a lot of fisherman get sick of catching flounder and end up catching shark. They really never truly enjoyed or experienced the thrill of catching the small fighting fish.

Keep in the back of your mind that you are trying to catch a fish that will have weights in the ½-to 2 lb. range, with the average weight probably coming out around ¾ pound. Of course, you will occasionally catch flounder over two pounds, but you certainly do not need a tackle arrangement which has a combined weight of from 2 to 4 lbs. If I could catch these fish with sewing thread on a 1-ounce rod, I am certain that my fishing thrills would be increased a hundred-fold.


F = FLOUNDER "SPOTS"
R = ROWBOAT RAMPS
NOTE: This map should be used with DEPT. OF COMMERCE 120-SC
DOC GRELL'S "SEEK AND FIND" FLOUNDER MAP OF BABYLON-BAY SHORE GREAT SOUTH BAY AREA
Indicates good flounder areas
BABYLON CUT
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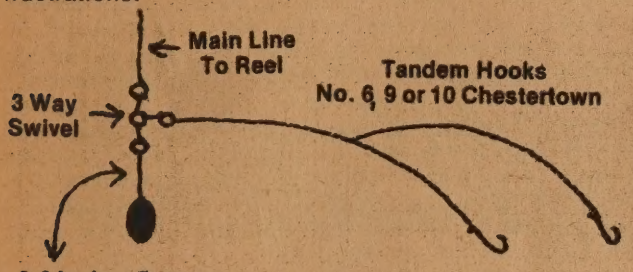
Terminal Tackle

Long ago I gave up on the spreader for many reasons: grass catchers, fouling properties and, to a great extent, elimination of sportfishing qualities. You may employ spreaders. If you do, I urge you to make comparisons with the increased advantages of the double tandem rig. (See diagram)

The double tandem rig is nothing more than a three way swivel which consists of one part of the swivel attached to your line, another which goes to your sinker, and the third which goes to your hooks. Hookwise, I use #9 or #6 Chestertowns. Sinkerwise, I emply egg-shaped sinkers, usually from ½-ounce to 1-ounce. Such terminal tackle gives me wide casting range around my boat.

I personally believe if you have to hold bottom with 3-ounce or 4-ounce sinkers, you are fishing in the wrong spots (too much current and you will never have the right bottom for flounders). Also, your line is far too heavy. You need to move. You probably are fishing over a hard sandy bottom with plenty of tidal flow. Bad news. Too much current in the Great South Bay usually means you will be catching plenty of grass, which will add to your frustrations.



PREPARATIONS FOR AND BEFORE ACTUAL FISHING

The Bait

I have bought bloodworms and used them successfully. To say the least, they are very expensive. However, they do have the advantage in that you do not really have to work too hard in catching flounders. Your simply can break the worms in half and place half on each hook. If you are really economical you can break them into several pieces and thus think that you have more bait.

If you go this route, I strongly recommend that you thread each half onto your hook, leaving the uncut end of the worm at the barb end of the hook. Flounders love the little red heads of bloodworms, especially the ends of the worms with the little biting hooks which sooner or later you will feel when the worms bite you. At any rate, fishing with blood worms with no other preparations is not the best way to obtain a really good catch.

My best method has always involved digging my own black mussels from the banks of the State Boat Channel (3 or 4 two-gallon buckets full) which I use both for chum and my bait.

If I have the time I dig enough of these black mussels to take home. At home I place these in a bucket of salt water and cook them up. This makes the mussel tougher and firmer as well as opening up the shell. After cooking these mussels I put them in large "baggies" and have excellent bait for my next trip.

In using black mussels for bait, you will first experience a little difficulty in attaching such to your hook. With experience you will quickly master the art. If they are cooked they will remain more firmly attached.

At any rate, after you catch several nice, fat flounders with your own black mussel bait, as well as thinking of the money you have saved by not spending $2.00 to $2.50 per dozen for bloodworms, you will be well on your way to going the black mussel or clam way.

You might also desire to dig your own clams out on the flats. If you do, make sure that you do not become involved in illegal clamming activities. You can dig a bucket of clams for bait, but do not get carried away with your digging. Dig a bushel and you'll get picked up by the Marine Police for clamming without a license.

In using clams for bait, I use small thin slices on the hook. Do not use the entire clam. Flounders have very small sucking mouths and they will not choke themselves like a bluefish. You might say they are dainty, but oftentimes frisky little suckers, and they know very well what their mouth limitations are.

I suggest that you break these mussels up in your chum pot with a wooden dowel. To do so with your bare hands is to invite a razor-like cut. You will now be chumming with your blood. This procedure is not in my fishing plan.

The Plunger Method or Stirring Up the Bottom Prior to Fishing

I am a firm believer that before you commence fishing, and while you are fishing, that you periodically bang the bottom, jam the bottom or, even better, plunge the bottom and let your flat-headed friends know that "you are here, come and get it, look what I have for you, din-din is being served".

By plunging the bottom you not only announce your arrival, but in addition wake them up if they are sleeping and, most important, stir up the variety of small organisms that are lying on the bottom. No, you will not suck up a flounder with my plunger arrangement, as one of my fishing club friends suggests. You might suck up a scuba diver, but never a flounder.

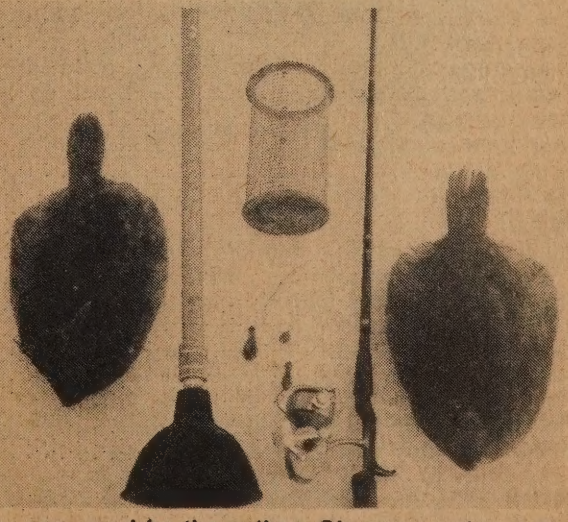
My plunger arrangement is nothing more than a regular plumber's plunger, available from any hardware store, which is attached to an aluminum extending-handle pole which is used for painting or rolling paint onto house overheads. It has the nice freature of extending out to 25 feet, which enables me to plunge the bottoms in most of the spots where I fish for flounder.

There are many other arrangements for roughing up the bottom: large duckweights, artillery shells, small anchors, concrete blocks dropped with spikes driven through, etc. I personally have tried them, all, but still like my plunger arrangement. It is light, easy to use and works!

ACTUAL FISHING AND YOUR OBJECTIVE

The Flounder

After you have picked your spot for fishing and have anchored your boat, double check to make sure that you



The gear used by the author. Oh, yes...and two Great South Bay flounders.

have the right type of bottom beneath you. Remember, muddy bottom preferred over hard sand. Do your thing with the plunger, put your small chum or large chum pot overboard on the bottom where you will be fishing.

Bait up with whatever bait you prefer (bloodworms, small thin pieces of clam strip, or pizza dough; I prefer black mussels), allowing a small section of the barb of the hook to protrude through the bait. Remember—your bait must be on the bottom to catch flounder.

Remember also that flounder do not rest completely against the bottom as some people think, even though they sometimes partly bury themselves. In reality, they support themselves slightly off the bottom on their curved bodies. This position also allows them a quick take-off after their prey...your mussel, sandworm, blood worm or piece of clam.

Their top and rear fins may be used for "crawiling" either forward or backward slowly above the bottom by wavelike movements. In actual swimming in open water, off the bottom, flounder use their chest (pectoral) and tail fins. This information is important in developing your fishing techniques, which can very from simply allowing your bait to rest on the bottom until you seel a nibble; slowly dragging your terminal tackle back to your chum pot after casting out a few feet; or periodically lifting your bait off the bottom.

It is obvious that you will use a variety of techniques in your fishing,and as soon as you begin to catch fish you will more or less stay with particular techniques. On occasions I have caught flounder 15 feet from the chum pot and that area in which I have stirred the bottom. Other times, it appears that I am catching flounders right over the chum pot.

At any rate, it is imperative that the bottom you fish over is not rock, rip-rap or hard sand. Also, if you insist on fishing in the middle of the State Boat Channel, or in the middle of Fire Island Inlet where there is hard sand bottom and plenty of current, you will not be able to hold bottom with spin rod and tackle, light line and tackle. You will then have, to use conventional medium-size rods and reels and heavy sinkers in the 3-to 5-ounce classification, and will have departed from the "sporty way" of catching flounder. Also your catch size will rapidly decrease.

In actual fishing, remember that your sinker serves two purposes: one, to hold bottom; and secondly, it serves as a stirrer-up of the bottom as you drag it through the mud or bounce it up and down—as you will do when you raise your rod tip. You will do this constantly as you fish and you need not worry that this bouncing of your bait will frighten flounder. These are curious fish and will come over to see what is happening, not knowing that they will undoubtedly become part of the "happening" if they keep their small, rubbery mouths open.

While I am actually fishing, I periodically throw (around the boat) crushed black mussels in addition to those in the chum pot. Other techniques which many of my friends employ involve throwing out whole-kernel corn (precooked, not pop-corn ready for popping and not pop-corn popped) cat-food, rice, etc. There is no limit to what you can do in chumming unless the limit be your wallet and, as I stated before, I try to keep my trips inexpensive at best.

When flounder bite, don't jerk your line abruptly as if you had a bluefish on. To the contrary, gently lift your rod tip. Flounder, for the most part, will gently bite down on your bait as you begin to reel in, and they continue to pull. Remember that they have soft, rubbery mouths. As you fish, continue to chum periodically and stir up the bottom. If, using my techniques, and do not catch fish within a 20-minute period, move to another "F" spot as indicated on map.

When fishing State Boat Channel at F-marked spots, stay out of the middle of the channel. Not only will your fish yield be small, owing to many factors, you are also in violation of Inland Rules and are blocking traffic. You will not be close to muddy banks and small drains which enter the State Boat Channel from the salt water meadow land, which feeds many nutrients into major channels. Yes, use a small net if you are employing 6 lb. test line; wriggling fish in air will break your line.

Weather and Tides

Inasmuch as flounder fishing should be enjoyable, do not go flounder fishing when the weather is lousy. By this I mean when you have a strong northeast, southeast, east, southwest or northwest wind blowing, with white caps all over the bay. Not only will the bay be too churned up to fish and your teeth knocked out from the buffeting you will take, but your fish take will be small and you will not really be able to "seek and find" in areas off Heckscher Park, State Boat Channel and areas off Good Smaritan Hospital.

In a nutshell, you won't have any fun or any fish. Look for the nice, sunny days when the Great South Bay is relatively calm and the "F" spots can be given a good chance to produce.

I have found, generally speaking, the outgoing tidal flow to be best when I am fishing areas (State Boat Channel, for example) with considerable current. In areas of the bay where current flow is smaller. I have found that fish-catch differences between incoming or outgoing tidal flow are not worth the bother of researching current tables. If you are a current flow "expert," you should get some local tidal current charts; and remember that when it is high tide at Fire Island Inlet, you still have 3 hours left of incoming tidal flow before you reach high slack water. High and Low Tide times are not Current Times.

In brief, fish in good weather. Stay out of the winds and the rain.

Size of Fish You Keep

Throw back fish less than 8 inches long. Eat what you catch.

WHERE TO GO TO FISH

Party Boats or "Head Boats"

All you do is bring yourself, your rod and reel some food and dress warm. You'll also need money.

1. CAPTREE BOAT BASIN: Across Captree Bridge to Captree Boat Basin. You have a wide choice and selection of boats going for flounder.
2. BABYLON FISHING DOCKS: Foot of Fire Island Avenue, Babylon, N.Y. Several boats available here, but check local L.I. papers for times, charters, etc.
3. LINDENHURST: Along Merrick Road there are several boats that sail for flounder. "Pretty Misty" "Sea Horse", etc.

Rowboat Rentals [boats and motors, boats and you supply the motor]

1. BABYLON FISHING STATION (Walter Schmidt) 23 Post Place, off Fire Island Avenue across from Augie's Bait and Tackle, Babylon, New York
2. CHARLIE'S FISHING STATION (Charlie Crowley) Bergen Avenue, West Babylon, N.Y.

WHERE YOU CAN BUY BAIT AND TACKLE

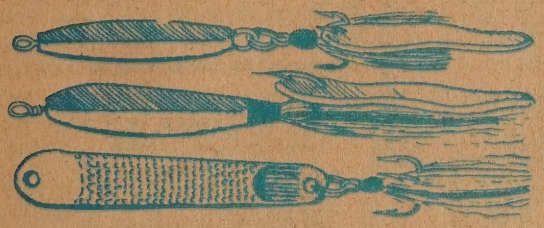
1. Augie's Bait and Tackle, 450 Fire Island Avenue, babylon, N.Y. MO-9-9837.
2. Captree Bait Basin, Captree State Park, Babylon, N.Y.
3. Charlie's Bait and Tackle, 175 E. Montauk Highway, Lindenhurst, N.Y. TU-4-2021
4. Charlie's West Bait and Tackle, 555 Montauk Highway, Lindenhurst, N.Y. 226-5335.
5. Duke's Bait and Tackle Shop, 53 West Montauk Highway, Lindenhurst, N.Y. 884-5023.

BOAT LAUNCHING RAMPS

1. Heckscher State Park. Go down Heckscher Spur off Southern State Parkway. Excellent spot to launch for fishing eastern end of area denoted for flounder. Small L.I. State Park Commission Fee.
2. WEST ISLIP BOAT RAMP. Down by Good Samaritan Hospital, West Islip, N.Y.
⅓. VILLAGE OF LINDENHURST PUBLIC RAMP. Turn south by A & W Rootbeer, Merrick Road, Lindenhurst, N.Y.
4. COPAIGUE PUBLIC RAMP Randall Park, Copaigue, New York.
5. BERGEN POINT, YACHT HAVEN, Bergen Avenue, West Babylon, New York.

West Islip, Lindenhurst, West Babylon and Copaigue ramps all excellent launching sites for fishing Western end of this area.

Good Fishing. Catch what you can eat and establish a size limit to those which you keep. Anything under 8 inches is a "stamp". Throw them back and let them grow up.



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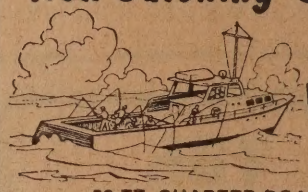

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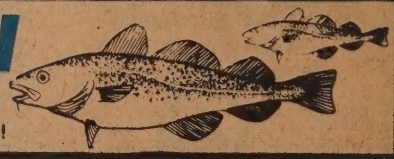

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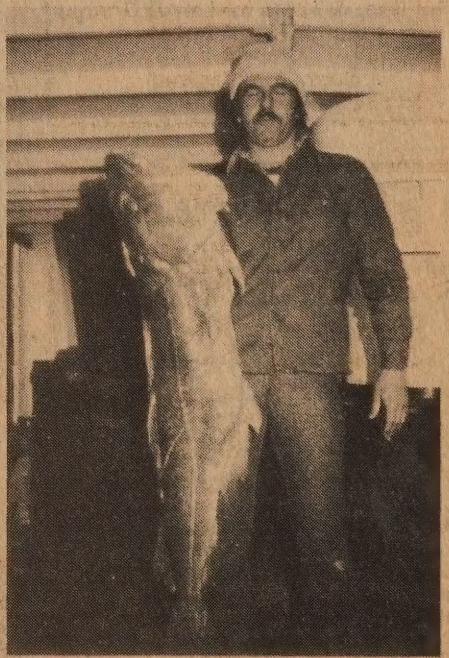
SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

MONTAUK

Capt. Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Star** said that cod fishing was very good on Friday, fair on Saturday and very good on Sunday, when 9 people had 150 fish. Cod averaged 10 to 12 lbs. and up to 25. A few large blackfish were mixed in. Fishing has been best in 85' of water at the outer Cartwright Grounds.

The area south of Block Island in 95 feet of water is producing very good cod action, according to Capt. Lester Behan of the **Peconic Queen II**. Lester said there are still a few openings for the April 5th special Andrea Doria trip Nobody has fished the wreck since November and it was very good then.

Captain Dick Vigilant of the **Triton II** called to say that Friday, Saturday and Sunday were very good days in the Cartwright Area, 80 feet of water. Saturday was best with over a hundred cod for 8 guys averaging 10 to 12 lbs. and up to 20. Flood tide brings the best action. A few pollack and big blackfish are showing up in the



John Herson of Smithtown with the pool-winning 48 lb. 6 oz. codfish he took on March 22 aboard the Peconic Queen II at Montauk.

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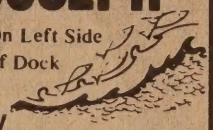

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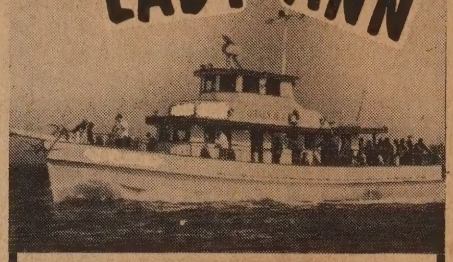

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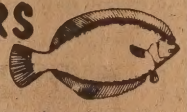

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catches again, starting the spring run.

Plenty of flounder in Montauk Lake is the word from **Gone Fishing Marina.** Clam and mussel bait best bets. Green and black buoy area is recommended on any moving tide. Fish average 1-1½ lbs. and Ronnie says if you chum and sit it out good catches will be made.

SAG HARBOR

Helen Jacobsen of **Noyac Marina** reports the flounder are stirring slowly at Noyac Creek. Slip customer Mike Albert and party from Brooklyn had a pre-seasoned catch of 63 flounders at Noyac Creek but had to work for them. Helen said they will be officially opened on Saturday April 5 with coffee available.

HAMPTON BAYS

Tony's Fishing Station reports good flounder action from buoy 10 to 17 on outgoing water. Bloodworms and mussel chum is producing an average of 50 ¾ lb. flounder per boat.

MORICHES BAY

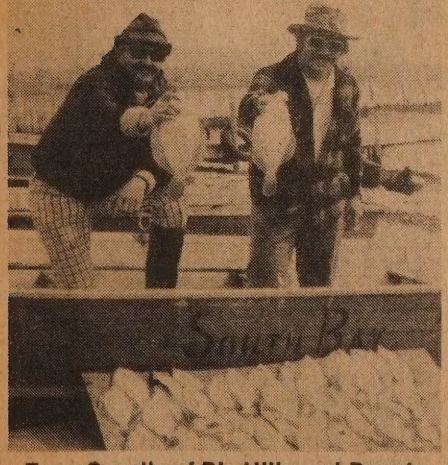
Skidmores Fishing Station said it was slow on Sunday but on Firday and Saturday the boats averaged 30 to 60 per boat. The three spots recommended are southwest of buoy 39, the Sand Bar east of 36 and between buoys 33 and 34. Mussels both as bait and chum is great in combination with worms. The flounders go from ½-1½ lbs. and are best on the incoming tide.

Bob Cole at **Moriches Bait & Tackle** said there are lots of flounders at Mastic Beach and practically guaranteed a good catch. Forge River is a bit slow right now. The baits are both blood and sand worms as well as clams. The first two hours of the outgoing tide seems best. Te flounders range from postage stamps to two pounds with many small ones. Bob says to stick with it for a good catch.

Al Lassen at the **Hi-Way Fishing Station** also reports alot of small ones he also says to stick with it as shown by Al Czlenkiewicz of Flushing who came in with ¾ of a bushel of good size flounder.

MASTIC BEACH

Keenan's Fishing Station reports good flounder fishing when the weather allows the boats out. Buoy 19 is good with some fair catches at 17. The edges of the channels are favored



Tony Casells of Dix Hills and Dennis of South Bay Fishing Station caught 50 flounder in just 3 hours at buoys 28 and 29 off Heckscher State Park. Fish weighed in at from ¾ to 1¾ lbs.

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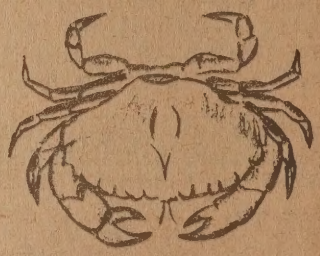

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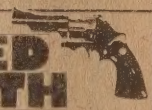

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by the flounders right now. Bloodworms with mussel chum on the outgoing tide works well. Size wise the fish are postage stamps on up, so stick it out for a decent size catch.

WEST SAYVILLE

Marty at **Southbay Fishing Station** said the flounder fishing was good on Friday and Saturday. "Harvest Moon", Mike Andreycisk and Ira Katzman caught 324 flounder on Friday. The largest 2½ lbs. They fished buoy 29 on the incoming tide using bloodworms and mussel chum. Otherwise the average per boat was 35-40 fish with all being caught at buoy 29.

BAY SHORE

George Dennis and Ray Williams called to say that they are now running the Bait & Tackle Department at **Starfish Marine**. They are in the process of expanding the tackle section and have laid in a good supply of flounder bait including the popular clam necks. They will be open 6 A.M. on weekends for those flounder fisherman who launch from Heckscher State Park Launching Ramps.

CAPTREE

The **Captain Joseph Fleet** had excellent flounder fishing all week until Thursday and after Friday's wind results were fair. Buoy 4 and East of Cherry Grove on any moving water is producing good flounder with few throw-backs on worm and clam. No one sailed on Sunday.

Mrs. Litwin of the **Captain Ben Litwin** took 33 flounder during the short time she wasn't servicing the passengers. Fishing has been good in the Heckscher area and all aboard had fish. High hook on Friday was only 13 due to the high winds.

The **Captain Swanson II** said that poor weather made for fair fishing over the weekend. Heckscher Park and the Bay Shore Flats are producing a steady pick all day.

The **Captain Scotty** called to report an average of 25 fish per man over the weekend. Buoy 4 off Heckscher produces best at the end of the Ebb tide.

Captain Blum of the **Jib V & VI** reports that both Saturday and Sunday he fished off Heckscher State Park with excellent results. Catches were 15 to 40 flatties per man, with all the fish nice and fat and good eating size. Saturday "Commander" Scotty had 46 flounder and a friend bagged 33. Fish are averaging 1½ lbs. and baits working best are worm and clam.

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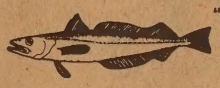

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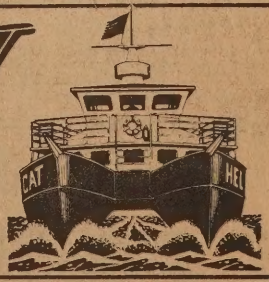

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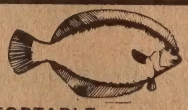

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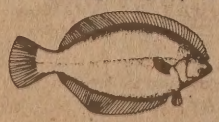

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BABYLON

augie's Bait & Tackle reported that Doc Grell had 3 flounders of 3 lb. 10 oz., 3 lb. even, and 2 lb. 8 oz. He had a load of others all of which were caught at the Gilgo Beach using worms and a plunger to stir the bottom. Dick Orlando had a 1 lb. 7 oz. flounder taken from Heckscher along with many other fish. Some flounder have been caught off the dock, but not many.

Charlie's Fishing Station reports good catches on Firday and Saturday. The east-west channel and Fox Creek seemed to be best. Blood worms and mussel chum is the bait.

LINDENHURST

Duke's Tackle Shop reports very good flounder fishing on Saturday. Squaw Island, West of the Captree Bridge and the Captree Docks are all good bets. For the shore bound angler try the Lindenhurst Town Beach at high tide. Duke said bloodworms are good but sometimes clams out-fish the worms.

AMITYVILLE

Jonas Bait & Tackle reports the first catches of weakfish. George Mills with his friend fished the Fire Island Lighthouse area using shrimp lures. They caught 17 weaks of 2 to 3 lbs. of which George caught 3. Flounder activity is fairly good in the Amity Cut and State Channel. Heckscher area has also given up quite a few flounders. Mussel chumming is a must for a productive catch.

SEAFORD

Pop's Fishing Station said the Four Corners and Squaw Island as well as most channels are very productive. The flounders are of mixed sizes and taking blood worms or clam with mussel chum a must.

Captain Eddy's Fishing Station said the weather held down the amount of boats that went out. Those boats that did all got flounder and nobody got skunked. Eddy reports worm sales off and dyed clams up. Captain Eddy does their own cutting and dying of clams. He also has ground clam bellies for chum.

WANTAGH

Mike at **Causeway Bait & Tackle** went casting for flounders from the beach at Wantagh Park. He caught 17

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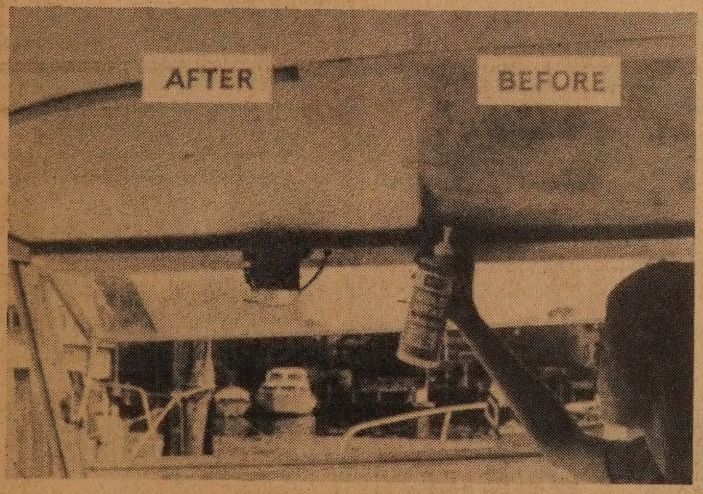

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in Sundays rain with bloodworms. He reports that fish are in the deeper water. Quite a few boats that went to Squaw Island had 70 flounders or more in the deeper water. Mussel chum is necessary for good catches.

These flounders were caught by Steve Fuelling's High School fishing club aboard the Lucky Strike III. The fish range from ½ to 1¼ lbs. and took clams and worms in the Seaford area.

N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

FREEPORT

Excellent flounder fishing on Saturday reports Captain Spider Schmidt of the **Aloma Fleet**. Average was 10 to 15 per man with a few people having over 50 flounder. Fish are large, 1 to 1½ lbs., best on outgoing tide, clam and mussels baits both produce. Best areas are the bays and the State Channel by Gilgo.

Anthony's Fishing Station reports good flounder at Haunt's Creek, Swift Creek and the High Flats Drain. One boat with 3 men took 36 flounder on clam and mussel with mussel chum. Incoming tide is best and also the turn of the tide.

The **Captain Jack VI** averaged 20 flounder per man on Friday. On Saturday Neil McKenna took 18 fish all over a pound and one 2½ pounder. Fred Levine took over 20 fish by baiting-up with both clam and worm on the same hook. Most action took place in the last hour of the day. The Jack VI is now sailing daily 8 A.M.

ISLAND PARK

The **Ginnie-Mae** said that flounder fishing has been fair considering the weathe and high tide. Reynold's Channel is best and off Long Beach and off Atlantic Beach in Rockville Centre. Best bait clam and worm combo fished on incoming and outgoing water.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Henning's Fishing Station reports that the slack tide of both Ebb and Flood are producing good catches of flounder ¾ to 1¼ lbs. on worm and mussels by buoys 8 and 10 and in Bannister Creek, Duck Point and Woodmere Channel. Chumming is a must.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Freddy of **Mike's Bait & Tackle** reports good flounder around JFK on mussels and sand worms. Flood tide is best without chumming. Fish are relatively small ranging ½ to 1 lb. The whiting boats are doing well with fish 1 to 3 lbs. considering the weather.

Captain Fred Ardilino of the **Amberjack IV** reports that there is very good whiting fishing with each man averaging from ¼ to ½ sack each. Both the **Amberjack & Tampa IV** have Nantucket Wreck Trips and tile fish trips coming up which ought to be real freezer fillers. Check their ads for details.

Left to right: Tito Alinea, Al Messina M.D., and Chris Alinea of Smithtown with 1 to 2¼ lb. flounder they caught off Callahan's Beach on mssel and worm bait.

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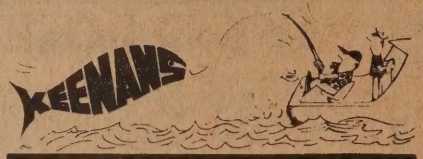

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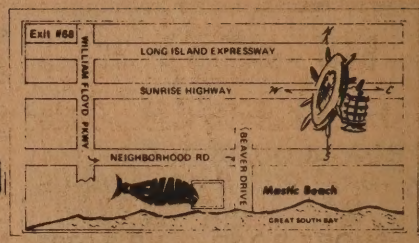

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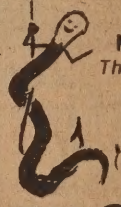

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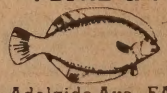

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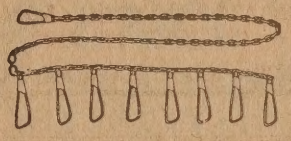

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GREENPORT

A.P. White Bait Shop reports **Brand X** and **Wilhelric** sailed Saturday. While quantity lacking, due to still cold water, quality is fine, with fish to 2 lbs. on blood and mussels. With some warmer weather, it should be great flounder fishing.

SOUTHOLD

Port of Egypt Fishing Station had seven boats out on Saturday that averaged up to 28 fish per man. Best areas are Goose Creek, Town Creek and off the Oyster Plant at Greenport. Worms and yellow dyed clam are best baits and chumming is necessary. Fish average 1 to 1¼ lbs.

MT. SINAI HARBOR

Ralph of **Ralph's Fishing Station** reports some fish in the sound, but really, due to weather, has not had enough boats out yet to give any report when we called. Ralph says once this wind stops and the sun warms up the water, the action should be very good.

PORT JEFFERSON

Big flounder 1½ to 2 lbs. are being

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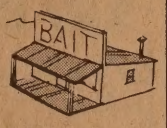

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NORTHPORT

The **Chain Locker** reports nice flounder to 1½ lbs. in Northport Bay and the docks on sandworm with mussel chum. Incoming water is best. Good catches for those who work at their fishing and seek out the holes.

HUNTINGTON

Four Winds Tackle Shop reports big flounder 1 to 1½ lbs. at Duck Island on bloodworms and plenty of mussel chum. One report had an unbelievable 187 keepers taken by one angler on Sunday.

PORT WASHINGTON

Rocky at **Moreland's Bait & Tackle** said there has been some flounder activity all over Manhasset Bay and from the docks. Fish are on the small size but improved over previous years. Sandworms on all tides.

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19' MAKO, 1974 150 Merc. O/B, C/B set w/hailer, Complete C.G. Package, $4000 (516) 878-1180.

31' COLUMBIAN CUSTOM-BUILT SPORTFISHERMAN F/B, Tuna Tower, Fighting Chair, Teak Decks, Twin 250 h.p. Crusaders just re-blocked, New trim tabs, loaded. $10,300. (516) 261-0261.

1972 BOSTON WHALER, 16'7" SAKONNET, 1972 65 h.p. Johnson & 6 h.p. Johnson Auxiliary. Sun top, special locking rod rack, mooring & storage covers, trailer $3500. Call Ray after 5 p.m. (914) 476-6819. Yonkers.

23' 1971 CHRIS CRAFT Lancer Fiberglass - Great Family & Fishing Boat. Many Extras. Excellent Condition. $5200, Call After 4 p.m. (516) 261-5290.

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1969 31 ft. ALGLAS w/Flybridge, Twin 210 F/W/C, 3 kw. gen., all necessary Coast Guard Equipment. Must sell moving. (516) 543-3449.

STARCRAFT 14' Seafarer with 18HP Evinrude and Tee Nee tilting trailer (all rollers - no pads). Equipped with anchor, line, depth-flasher, oars and silent oar locks, spare trailer wheel and propellor, compass, battery operated lights, extension handle. Very good condition. $650. (516) 667-6633 or 473-7454.

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PRE-MADE ANCHOR LINE, Either Poly or Nylon; 3/8" Dia. Poly 100' $12.75 with Shackle & Thimble. Mooring Lines also. Call for prices. Ask for Steve (516) 567-2264.

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Benmar DR-26A White Line Depth Recorder. 0 to 480' in three overlapping ranges. 12 or 32 volt input. Powerful 50 KHz. output. New. $445.00 Comco 608 VHF 6 Channels plus weather, crystals installed, set to frequency & certified. New. $225.00 Bonzer SR-20 Radar. Very light weight, low power consumption, shows targets down to less than 20 yards. Used as demo only. $1095.00 Griffith, 72 Kenwood Road, Garden City, (516) PI-6-7118.

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FREE CATALOG — New expanded Do-it-yourself mold section. 40 original soft plastic lures. 5 sizes shrimp, plus eels, squid, worms, etc. All supplies. VIKING ACCESSORIES, Box 277, Seaford, N.Y. 11783.

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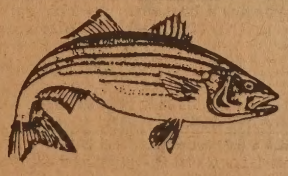
FINE HAND TIED HOOKS, 16 Flounder - $100, 12 Fluke - $1.00, 12 Blackfish - $1.00, 9 Striper - $1.00, 9 Cod - $1.00, 9 Mackerel Tubes - $1.00. Free Catalogue, Mountaintop Tackle, RFD, Starksboro, Vt. 05487.



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I AM NOT A COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN. I WANT THESE NUMBERS SOLELY FOR MY PRIVATE USE. CAN GIVE SEVERAL GOOD REFERENCES AS TO MY INTENTIONS. LORAN "A" NUMBERS ALSO NEEDED.

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1974 17' Canoe, Brand New	$245
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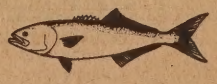
Call Vic (516) 277-0823



NEW JERSEY Fishing Report

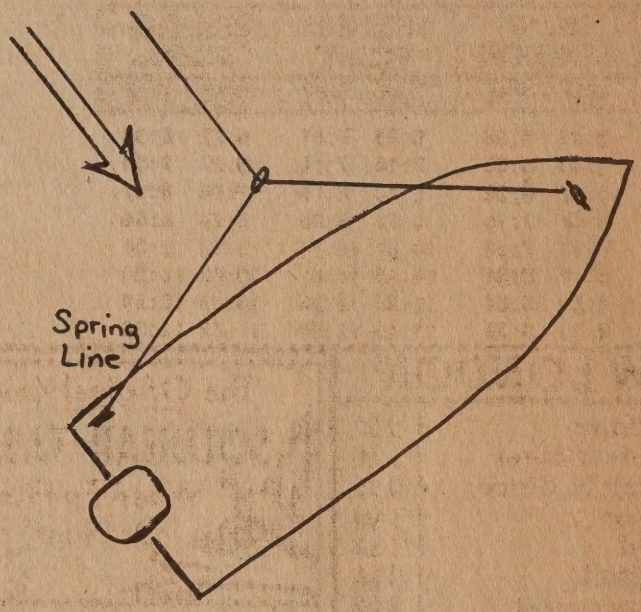
SANDY HOOK

Freds Bait Service tells us that the freshwater pickerel and perch fishing is still excellent. Flounder are plentiful in the Shrewsbury. The bulkheads all along the river are producing fish.

LONG BRANCH

We get the report here, that whiting

Tip of the Week



For better control of fishing lines of several anglers fishing in a running tide, tie a line to the stern cleat and attach to your anchor rode with a snap-hook. Adjust the lines until the boat is broadside to the current flow.

AL LaRocca ("Skip Joy"), Bethpage, N.Y.

are still around and in good numbers too. On days when there is a west wind and water is clear the number of fish landed, is fantastic.

SHARK RIVER

Lots of flounder still around, but they are on the small side.

CONNECTICUT SCENE

PELHAM

Flounder fishing is improving best spot is the canal between Glen Island and Orchard Beach. Also reports of bass activity in the Hudson around Croton.

RYE

Flounder fishing is slow, not many fish being caught because the water is still too cold.

GREENWICH

Sportsman's Den says the flat-fishing is still good. Best place for shore-fishermen is Todd's Point. There are some scattered herring in the Mianus.

FREE garcia ROYAL BONNYL

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10 - 20 - 30

pound test

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE

TIDE TABLES

ON →	SANDY HOOK		NEW LONDON		WILLETS POINT		BRIDGE-PORT	
DAY	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
4/3 THURSDAY	1:51	2:24	3:45	4:28	6:03	6:51	5:27	6:04
4/4 FRIDAY	2:47	3:24	4:48	5:33	7:16	7:56	6:27	7:04
4/5 SATURDAY	3:49	4:24	5:52	6:29	8:18	8:50	7:30	8:01
4/6 SUNDAY	4:48	5:23	6:48	7:15	9:13	9:39	8:26	8:54
4/7 MONDAY	5:43	6:12	7:33	7:53	10:01	10:24	9:16	9:39
4/8 TUESDAY	6:31	6:55	8:12	8:31	10:43	11:01	10:02	10:20
4/9 WEDNESDAY	7:14	7:32	8:50	9:04	11:20	11:33	10:43	10:59
4/10 THURSDAY	7:53	8:07	9:26	9:39	11:49	11:49	11:43	11:36

SANDY HOOK

SHINNECOCK INLET	−0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	−0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Harts Cove	+1 30
Potunck Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	−0 38
Inlet & Dem. Pt.	−0 38
Coast Giard Sta.	−0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	−0 19
Loop Pkwy. Bridge	+0 25
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	−0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	−0 00
Beach Ch. (Bridge)	+0 38
JFK Airport	+0 26
STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
MANASQUAN	−0 12

WILLETS POINT

Little Neck Bay	−0 10
Execution Light	−0 06
Manhasset Bay	−0 01
Hempstead Harbor	−0 11
City Island	−0 03
Rye Beach	−0 28

NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0 27
Connecticut River	+1 10
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land	−0 14
Fort Pond Bay	−0 29
Montauk Inlet	−0 25
Montauk Point	−1 13

BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	−0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	−0 08
Herod Point	−0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 19
Horton Point	−0 20
Truman Beach	−0 42

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and/or minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet —0 50" is listed under "on Sandy Hook". — 0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good territory, hunting good cover during these times if you wish to find the best sport that each has to offer. The tables are not a guarantee that you will catch fish or see game during the period, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour and a half or two hours thereafter, and are in black face type. The minor periods are somewhat shorter in duration

	A.M		P.M.	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
4/3	11:45	5:55	—	6:25
4/4	12:05	6:40	12:40	7:05
4/5	12:50	7:25	1:20	7:45
4/6	1:35	8:05	2:00	8:25
4/7	2:15	8:45	2:40	9:05
4/8	2:55	9:20	3:20	9:40
4/9	3:30	10:00	3:55	10:20
4/10	4:10	10:40	4:35	11:00

PHASES OF THE MOON

4-11	4-18	4-25	4-3
NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.

SUNRISE/SUNSET

4-6	5:38	6:28
4-12	5:29	6:34
4-18	5:20	6:40
4-24	5:11	6:46

The Long Island FISHERMAN

Proudly Announces the

Fisherman's Package

The Fisherman's Package is now in the process of being mailed out to L.I.F. subscribers, and all should receive their Package by the end of this month. Please do not call The Fisherman if you haven't received yours—it's worth waiting for! The contents of The Fisherman's Package are listed below, and if you add up the figures, a savings of $532 PLUS is possible by using all the discounts offered. To those of you who STILL don't subscribe to The Long Island Fisherman, it's not too late—we still have a few Packages left, so the next 1,000 new subscribers can still get in on this terrific value. But don't put it off—when the supply of 1,000 is exhausted, new subscribers will have to wait for the 1976 Fisherman's Package. So subscribe TODAY!

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A 16-page booklet, 5X8" for your tackle box.
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Fisherman's Book Club
Four discount blanks to order fishing books for 20% off.
Value . . . . . $8.00+

Photo Submission Blank
Submit a photo for possible publication in L.I.F.
Value . . . . . Unknown

EASY RIDER
Save $5 on a weekday charter aboard the Easy Rider, Montauk.
Value $5.00

VIKING SKIPPER
$3 coupon for discount on one trip aboard the Viking Skipper at Montauk.
Value $3.00

Seaway Communications
Save $5 with any $25 purchase or repair with this coupon.
Value $5.00

ANGLER II
Discount coupon for $2 off fare. Point Lookout.
Value $2.00

NAUTICAL SERVICE
Save 10% off compass adjustments & repair work.
Value . . . . . Unknown

HERITAGE MARINE
10% discount on all O.M.C. parts & accessories and Evinrude 50:1 oil.
Value . . . . . Unknown

VIKING STAR
Punch ticket: 5 trips, half fare on 6th; 10 trips, free fare on 11th trip. Montauk.
Value $17.00

Seatuck Cove Fishing Sta.
Discount coupon for $5 off boat and motor rental. Moriches Bay.
Value $5.00

SEA ISLE SPORTS
20% Cash discount card on all fishing tackle. Freeport.
Value . . . . . Unknown

PECONIC QUEEN II
Discount coupon for $2 off one fare. Montauk.
Value $2.00

ALL COMMUNICATIONS
Purchase Motorola's Modar Triton VHF-Fm radio and receive $50 credits towards any marine antenna in stock.
Value $50.00

STARFISH MARINE
Receive free wire line trolling outfit valued at $100 with purchase of any sportfishing boat (Mako or Grady White).
Value $100.00

Heine Marine Electronics
Discount coupon for:
$15 off any VHF antenna
$25 off any depth sounder
$50 off any VHF Radio
$75 off any VHF Radio & antenna together
Value $165.00

AMBERJACK IV
Discount coupon saves you $2 off fare for 10 trips.
Value $20.00

FLORIDA KEYS
Save $50 off a Florida Keys vacation home with this coupon.
Value $50.00

Seaway Communications
Save $50 with any $500 purchase of marine electronics.
Value $50.00

PECONIC QUEEN II
10 trip ticket—receive free ride on your 11th trip. Montauk.
Value $17.00

SNUG HARBOR
10% discount to all L.I.F. Subscriber Club members who stay at this Montauk motel.
Value . . . . . Unknown

MARLIN II
Save $3 off one fare with this discount coupon. Montauk.
Value $3.00

UMBRELLA RIGS
Save $1.00 off any John Sekora Umbrella Rig with this coupon.
Value $1.00